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OF LUTON

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

Medical Officer of Health

and Divisional Medical Officer

and the

Chief Sanitary Inspector

FOR THE YEAR 1952



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BOROUGH



OF LUTON

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Public Health Department,
63-69, Guildford Street,
LUTON.

February, 1953.

His Worship the Mayor, Aldermen and
Councillors of the Borough of Luton.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The disturbing rise in the infant mortality rate which occurred in 1951, and whose causes were analysed in the report for that year, was not maintained during 1952. The new rate of 26.1 infant deaths per 1,000 live births is six per thousand less than in 1951 and compares favourably with the provisional figure of 27.6 for the whole of England and Wales ; the stillbirth rate of 21.4 is also slightly less than the national figure. Of the forty-three infants who died before reaching the age of one year, thirty failed to survive for more than twenty-eight days and of this number twenty-six died during their first week. Of the thirty neonatal deaths, fourteen were ascribed to immaturity and the bulk of the remainder to congenital malformation, birth injury and associated conditions. Of the infant deaths which occurred between 4 weeks and 1 year about one half might be said to be preventable. Two infants—one aged 2 weeks and the other aged 6 months—were accidentally asphyxiated while sharing a bed with their parents. It is clear, therefore, that while further reductions in the infant mortality rate can still be expected, the hard core of neonatal deaths presents an intractable problem, and it is probably true to say that a marked reduction in the neonatal death rate is unlikely to take place for many years to come.

In the reports for 1950 and 1951 attention was drawn to the dramatic fall in the number of deaths from respiratory tuberculosis. The death rate of .12 per 1,000 population from this cause in 1952 constitutes a new low record. Of the fourteen deaths recorded thirteen were over the age of thirty-five years and of this number twelve were males. On the other hand, there has been no corresponding decrease in the number of cases notified. Indeed, the 164 new cases notified in 1952 represent an increase of fifty over the previous year. Sixty cases, however, were notified following the visit of the Mass Radiography Unit in the spring. In this connection the tables on page 18, introduced for the first time in the report, will be of more than passing interest. They show the age and sex distribution of people resident in Luton who were X-rayed ; the number in each age and sex

group referred to the Chest Clinic for further examination ; and finally, the number in each group found to be suffering from respiratory tuberculosis.

The contribution of Dr. Brian Shaw, Physician to the Chest Clinic is a welcome addition to the report.

Turning to the incidence of the other infectious diseases we find an increase in the number of notified cases of puerperal pyrexia. This increase is attributable to a change in definition of this disease contained in the Puerperal Pyrexia Regulations of 1951.

In each calendar year rather more than 1,000 cases of measles are notified to the department, but they are not distributed evenly over the twelve month period. The periodicity of the infection is illustrated graphically on page 16.

During 1952, twenty cases of Scarlet Fever, sixteen cases of Whooping Cough and nineteen cases of Measles were admitted to Spittlesea Infectious Diseases Hospital. These when related to the number of cases notified represent admission rates of 152, 35 and 18 per 1,000 respectively. The number of cases admitted for each of these diseases is small, but it would appear that, taking into consideration the greater frequency of complications and sequelæ arising from measles and whooping cough, the admission rate for scarlet fever cases is disproportionately high.

Poliomyelitis did not assume epidemic form in 1952 ; four cases were notified, all under the age of 10 years, with no death.

No case of diphtheria was notified in 1952. The freedom which we now enjoy from this disease is the successful outcome of the immunisation campaign conducted nationally over the past ten years. But it is disquieting to find that fewer children are now being immunised. The number of children immunised in 1952 was 1,466 as against 1,796 in the previous year, and it is estimated that at 31st December, 1952, only 64.3 per cent. of the child population under five years was fully protected compared with 68.2 per cent. at the end of 1951.

The number of registered live births in 1952 was 1,649, 78 fewer than in 1951. The birth rate of 15.0 is the lowest since 1941 and is very slightly lower than the provisional figure (15.3) for England and Wales. There was a reduction both in hospital and domiciliary confinements, the domiciliary births accounting for 38.5 per cent. of the total. Of the 634 births

attended by domiciliary midwives, 373 (59 per cent.) received gas and air analgesia.

When reviewing health services there is the ever-present temptation for the administrator to sum up items of service and accept the total as being indicative of the efficiency of the service—a quite erroneous assumption. The number of visits paid by a health visitor or number of cases attended by a district nurse or midwife may provide a guide to the volume of work done, but cannot indicate the value of the service rendered. Thus, in the report the tables show that despite a decrease in the number of health visitors, the total number of visits paid is greater than in the preceding years, but it should be pointed out that this has only been made possible by employing State Registered Nurses to supplement the work of the health visiting staff. On the other hand, the quality of the service has been enhanced by securing a degree of co-ordination between the health visiting service and hospital pædiatric service. Even so, because of the shortage of health visitors it has not been possible to provide to the full the wider scope of service made possible under Section 24 of the National Health Service Act.

Towards the end of the year scales of charges were introduced for admission of children to day nurseries. The need for day nurseries in this country was unquestioned during the war, but their retention since the war has evoked widespread criticism—mainly on account of the high cost of maintaining them. Probably most people, for reasons widely divergent, incline to the view that at best day nurseries are undesirable, but at the same time feel that they fulfil a social need which cannot otherwise be met. The scales of charges now introduced put this opinion to the test, the charges being so designed that they benefit most those whose financial need is greatest. It will not be possible to assess fully their effect on applications for admission to day nurseries in Luton until early 1953 when the number of places to be provided will have to be reviewed ; and in the review it will be necessary to take into account the alternative measures which have been adopted by parents who have declined the offer of a place. In recent years careful enquiries have been made into all applications for admission to day nurseries in the Borough and only those children who could not otherwise be properly cared for have been admitted. The reasons for admission of children during 1952 are shown on page 33. It would be unfortunate, to say the least, if the scales of charges now introduced proved so deterrent that children were left at home either without care or in the care of an older child of school age ; or if mothers became so discouraged that they gave up their employment and had recourse to National Assistance.

Health Visiting and Dental Staff excepted, it has been possible for the first time for a number of years to recruit new staff to fill vacancies as they arose. To all members of the staff I wish to express my thanks for their loyal service.

I should also like to thank the Cinema Public Relations Officers and staff of the Home Counties Newspapers for the assistance they have so liberally rendered to the department.

Finally, I wish to express my indebtedness to the Chairman and Members of the Public Health and Divisional Health Committees for their encouragement and support throughout the year.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient servant,

R. M. DYKES,
Medical Officer of Health.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA

GENERAL STATISTICS

Area (from 1st April, 1939)	8,736 acres
Population (Census, 1951)	110,370
Registrar-General's Estimate for mid-1952 (Provisional)...	109,600
Number of inhabited houses, 1st April, 1952	30,579
Rateable value (1st April, 1952) unreduced	£942,319
Rateable value (1st April, 1952) reduced	£805,172
Sum represented by Penny Rate (est. 1952-53)	£3,260

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR 1952

			<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>	<i>Total</i>
Notified live births	Legitimate ...	...	1,045	933	1,978
	Illegitimate ...	...	50	46	96
			<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Notified stillbirths	All ...	...	1,095	979	2,074
	Legitimate ...	...	29	20	49
	Illegitimate ...	...	—	—	—
			<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total Live and Stillbirths (Notified)	All ...	...	29	20	49
	Legitimate ...	...	1,124	999	2,123
Registered live births*	Legitimate ...	...	831	749	1,580
	Illegitimate ...	...	38	31	69
			<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
All ...			869	780	1,649

Live Birth Rate per 1,000 of estimated resident population (provisional) 15.0

Registered stillbirths* 21 15 36

Stillbirth Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births* 21.4

	<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>	<i>Total</i>
Registered Deaths*	559	473	1,032

Death rate per 1,000 estimated resident population (provisional) ... 9.4

Deaths from Puerperal Causes :—

	<i>Deaths</i>	<i>Rate per 1,000 registered total births</i>
Puerperal Sepsis	Nil	Nil
Other Puerperal causes	2	1.2
		<hr/>
Total	2	1.2

Death Rates of Infants under 1 year of age :—

All Infants per 1,000 registered live births (provisional) ... 26.1

Legitimate per 1,000 legitimate live births (provisional) ... 24.0

Illegitimate per 1,000 illegitimate live births (provisional) ... 72.4

* Corrected for inward and outward transfers,

**BIRTH RATES, DEATH RATES, ANALYSIS OF MORTALITY,
MATERNAL DEATH RATES AND CASE RATES FOR CERTAIN
INFECTIOUS DISEASES IN THE YEAR 1952**

(England and Wales, London, 126 Great Towns and 148 Smaller Towns)
(Provisional figures based on Weekly and Quarterly Returns)

(Gummed slip to follow)

COMPARATIVE STATISTICS FOR 1942-1952

Year	LIVE BIRTHS		STILLBIRTHS		DEATHS		INFANT DEATHS				MATERNAL DEATHS			
	Number	Rate per 1,000 estimated population	Number	Rate per 1,000 total births	Number	Rate per 1,000 estimated population	Under 4 weeks	4 weeks —12 months	TOTAL	Rate per 1,000 live births	Sepsis	Other	Total	Rate per 1,000 total births
1942	1,820	18.0	69	36.5	998	9.8	42	39	81	44	—	1	1	0.52
1943	1,902	19.2	60	30.6	994	10.0	41	39	80	42	2	5	7	3.56
1944	2,282	22.7	58	24.8	1,040	10.3	40	43	83	36	—	3	3	1.3
1945	1,905	18.9	52	26.6	960	9.5	34	28	62	33	1	2	3	1.5
1946	2,096	19.9	71	32.8	1,019	9.6	51	20	71	34	2	1	3	1.4
1947	2,303	21.3	50	21.2	1,036	9.5	47	38	85	37	1	—	1	0.42
1948	1,902	17.5	40	20.6	989	9.1	27	27	54	28	—	2	2	1.03
1949	1,821	16.7	49	26.2	1,064	9.7	32	16	48	26	—	1	1	0.5
1950	1,706	15.5	50	28.5	1,056	9.6	21	17	38	22	—	1	1	0.6
1951	1,727	15.8	45	25.3	1,075	9.8	41	16	57	33	—	—	—	—
1952	1,649	15.0	36	21.4	1,032	9.4	29	14	43	26	—	2	2	1.2

DISTRIBUTION OF NOTIFIED LIVE BIRTHS AS BETWEEN INSTITUTIONAL AND DOMICILIARY CONFINEMENT

(Corrected for Inward and Outward Transfers)

Year	Institutional			Domiciliary				Grand Total
	Maternity Hospital Units	Private Nursing Homes	Total	District Mid-wives	Private Mid-wives	Doctors and Parents	Total	
1947	1,198	455	1,653	571	—	79	650	2,303
1948	1,154	285	1,439	402	—	61	463	1,902
1949	1,151	191	1,342	423	—	56	479	1,821
1950	923	155	1,078	612	—	16	628	1,706
1951	927	129	1,056	652	—	19	671	1,727
1952	844	170	1,014	634	1	—	635	1,649

DISTRIBUTION OF NOTIFIED STILLBIRTHS AS BETWEEN INSTITUTIONAL AND DOMICILIARY CONFINEMENT

(Corrected for Inward and Outward Transfers)

Cause				Maternity Hospital Units	Private Nursing Home	Domiciliary	Grand Total
Maternal Toxaemia	...	...	...	2	—	1	3
Foetal malformation	...	...	...	5	2	—	7
Prematurity	...	...	...	6	—	4	10
Complications of labour	...	...	...	4	—	1	5
Other	...	...	...	3	1	7	11
Total	...	...	...	20	3	13	36

OPHTHALMIA NEONATORUM

(i) Total number of cases notified during the year	...	...	19
(ii) Number of cases in which :—			
(a) Vision lost	...	...	Nil
(b) Vision impaired	...	...	Nil
(c) Treatment continuing at end of year	...	...	Nil

DEATHS OF LUTON RESIDENTS DURING THE YEAR 1952

CAUSE OF DEATH	All Ages	Under 4 weeks	1 month to 1 year	Total under 1 year	1-5	5-10	10-15	15-25	25-35	35-45	45-55	55-65	65-75	75+
1. Tuberculosis of Respiratory System	14	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	4	3	2	3	1
2. Tuberculosis—Other forms	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	1	—
3. Syphilis	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	1	—
4. Typhoid Fever	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5. Cholera	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
6. Dysentery	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
7. Scarlet Fever and Strep. Sore-throat	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
8. Diphtheria	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
9. Whooping Cough	3	—	—	—	2	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
10. Meningococcal Infections	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
11. Plague	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
12. Acute Poliomyelitis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
13. Smallpox	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
14. Measles	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
15. Typhus and Rickettsial Disease	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
16. Malaria	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Carried forward	25	—	—	—	3	—	1	1	—	4	4	6	5	1

DEATHS OF LUTON RESIDENTS DURING THE YEAR 1952 (continued)

CAUSE OF DEATH	All Ages	Under 4 weeks	1 month to 1 year	Total under 1 year	1-5	5-10	10-15	15-25	25-35	35-45	45-55	55-65	65-75	75+
Brought forward	25	—	—	—	3	—	1	1	—	4	4	6	5	1
17. Other Infective and Parasitic Diseases	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
18. Malignant Neoplasms Lymph and Haematopoietic tissues	198	—	—	—	1	—	—	1	4	19	28	54	46	45
19. Benign and Unspec. Neoplasms...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
20. Diabetes Mellitus	5	—	—	—	—	1	1	1	—	—	—	—	1	1
21. Anaemias	2	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
22. Vascular Lesions	178	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	8	13	12	47	96
23. Non-Meningococcal Meningitis...	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—
24. Rheumatic Fever	3	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—
25. Chronic Rheumatic Heart Disease	9	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	2	2	1	1
26. Arteriosclerotic and Degen. Heart	266	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	4	14	41	72	133
27. Other Diseases of Heart	37	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	4	10	15	6
28. Hypertension with Heart Disease	50	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	4	22	23
29. Hypertension without Heart Disease	7	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	1	3	1
30. Influenza	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
31. Pneumonia	57	1	7	8	3	—	—	—	2	4	2	8	12	18
32. Bronchitis	10	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	2	3	3
33. Ulcer of Stomach and Duodenum	9	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	2	1	5
Carried forward	860	1	7	8	7	3	2	8	10	45	71	143	229	334

DEATHS OF LUTON RESIDENTS DURING THE YEAR 1952 (continued)

CAUSE OF DEATH	All Ages	Under 4 weeks	1 month to 1 year	Total under 1 year	1-5	5-10	10-15	15-25	25-35	35-45	45-55	55-65	65-75	75+
Brought forward ...	860	1	7	8	7	3	2	8	10	45	71	143	229	334
34. Appendicitis ...	3	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1	—	1	—	—	—
35. Intest. Obstruc. and Hernia ...	8	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	2	3	1
36. Gastritis Ent. and Diarrhoea ...	4	—	1	1	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1
37. Cirrhosis of Liver ...	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
38. Nephritis and Nephrosis ...	6	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	2	2
39. Hyperphasia of Prostate ...	7	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	5
40. Pregnancy—Birth and Abortion...	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—
41. Congenital Malformations ...	7	3	2	5	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	—
42. Birth Injury Asphyxia. Atelectasis ...	7	7	—	7	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
43. Infections of Newborn ...	1	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
44. Immaturity—Other Diseases ...	14	14	—	14	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
45. Senility ...	17	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	15
46. All Other Diseases ...	51	1	2	3	—	—	1	1	2	1	6	8	15	14
47. Motor Vehicle Accidents ...	14	—	—	—	—	1	—	2	2	4	1	4	—	—
48. All Other Accidents ...	16	1	2	3	1	—	—	4	—	—	2	1	2	3
49. Suicide ...	14	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	3	4	3	2	1
50. Homicide and Oper. of War ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total ...	1,032	29	14	43	9	5	3	16	16	57	86	163	258	376

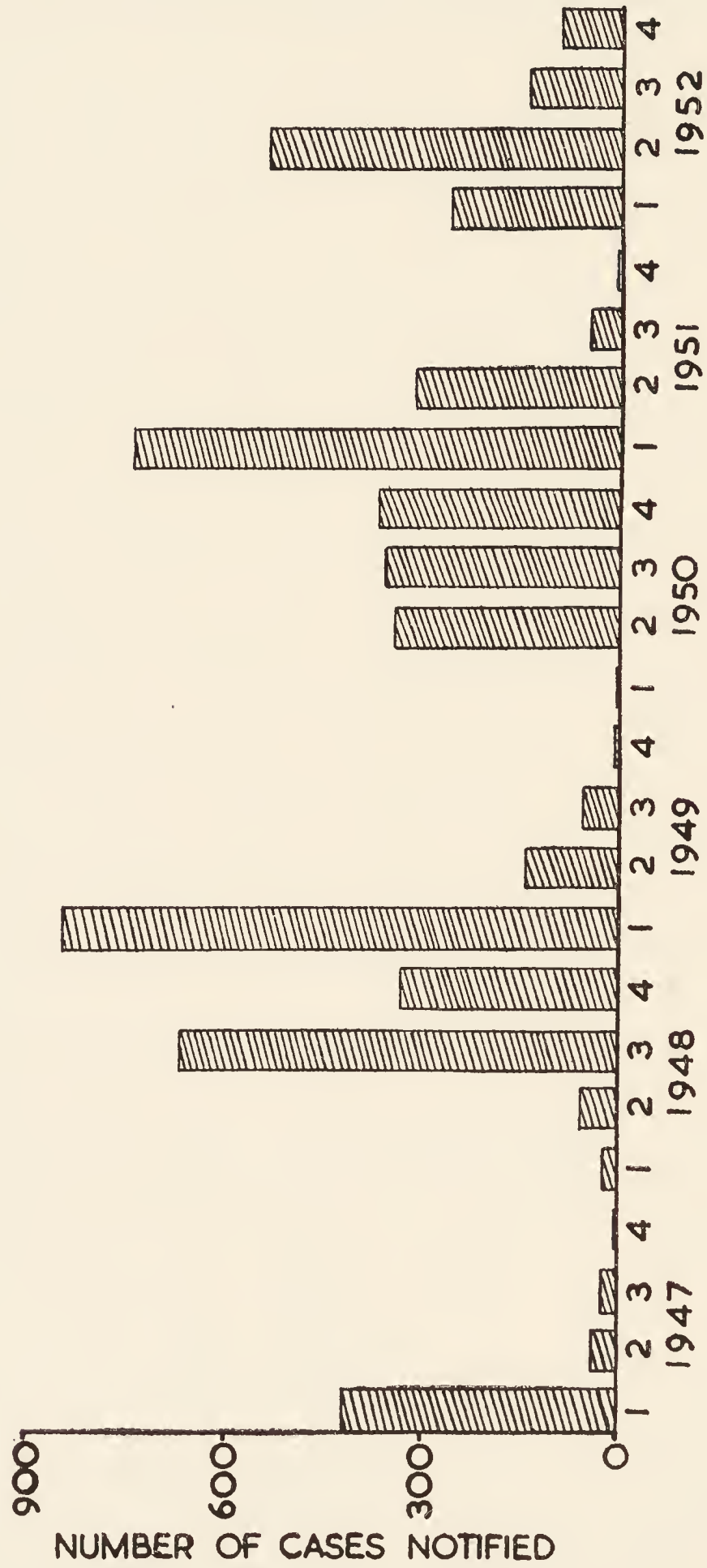
DEATHS OF LUTON INFANTS UNDER 1 YEAR OF AGE DURING 1952

Cause of Death	under 1 day	1 day	2 days	3 days	4 days	5 days	6 days	7 days	14 days	21 to 28 days	28 days to 2 m'ths	2 m'ths	3 m'ths	4 m'ths	5 m'ths	6 m'ths	7 m'ths	8 m'ths	9 m'ths	10 m'ths	11 to 12 m'ths	All
Pneumonia	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	—	2	1	—	—	1	—	1	—	1	—	8
Intest. Obstruc. and Hernia ...	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Gastritis Ent. and Diarrhoea...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	1
Congenital Malformations ...	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	5
Birth Injury Asphyxia. Atel....	3	—	3	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	7
Infections of Newborn ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Immaturity—Other Diseases...	7	4	2	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	14
All Other Diseases	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	3
All Other Accidents	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	3
Total	11	4	6	2	2	1	—	—	2	2	—	3	2	—	—	2	—	2	2	2	—	43

NOTIFIED INFECTIOUS DISEASES, 1952, Civilian (Corrected in cases of revised diagnosis)

	Under 1 year	1-2	2-3	3-4	4-5	5-10	10-15	15-20	20-25	25-35	35-45	45-65	Over 65	TOTAL
Scarlet Fever	—	3	6	14	24	82	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	131
Diphtheria ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Whooping Cough ...	27	62	60	82	73	140	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	450
Measles ...	14	85	140	115	176	465	25	6	4	3	2	—	—	1,036
Pneumonia ...	7	2	—	—	—	4	1	—	—	—	2	6	2	24
Acute Poliomyelitis (Paralytic)	—	—	1	1	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	4
Acute Poliomyelitis (Non-Paralytic)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Typhoid Fever	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Paratyphoid Fever	—	2	—	1	1	4	2	1	—	—	—	—	—	11
Dysentery ...	—	—	2	1	1	1	—	—	—	2	2	1	5	15
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	19	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	19
Puerperal Pyrexia	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	8	32	—	6	—	—	80
Meningococcal Infection	—	—	1	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3
Erysipelas ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	2	3	2	8
Jaundice ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Food Poisoning	—	1	—	1	2	3	—	1	—	1	—	1	—	10
ALL ...	67	155	210	216	278	702	33	16	37	42	14	13	9	1,792

CASES OF MEASLES NOTIFIED IN EACH QUARTER
OF THE SIX YEARS 1947-52 INCLUSIVE.



TUBERCULOSIS

There were 164 cases of pulmonary tuberculosis notified for the first time during the year. This shows an increase of 50 over the previous year. Sixty of the cases, however, were notified following the visit of the Mass Radiography Unit.

The number of deaths from pulmonary tuberculosis, 14, is the lowest ever recorded in Luton and represents a mortality rate of .12 per thousand of the population.

PARTICULARS OF NEW CASES OF TUBERCULOSIS AND ALL DEATHS FROM THE DISEASE DURING 1952

Age Periods				New Cases				Deaths			
				Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
				M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Under 1 year	...	...	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1 year	...	...	...	6	3	—	2	—	—	—	—
5 years	...	...	...	2	3	1	2	—	—	—	—
10 „	...	...	...	2	2	—	—	—	—	—	—
15 „	...	...	...	6	12	—	1	—	1	—	—
20 „	...	...	...	4	15	—	3	—	—	—	—
25 „	...	...	...	18	25	1	2	—	—	—	—
35 „	...	...	...	19	12	1	2	3	1	—	—
45 „	...	...	...	15	4	—	2	3	—	—	1
55 „	...	...	...	9	—	—	—	2	—	1	—
65+	...	...	...	6	1	—	—	4	—	—	1
Totals	...	...	...	87	77	3	14	12	2	1	2

The following table shows the number of cases of tuberculosis notified in Luton during each of the last five years together with the number of deaths :—

Year				Notified		Deaths	
				Pulmonary	Non-Pulmonary	Pulmonary	Non-Pulmonary
1948	...	...	...	154	21	46	5
1949	...	...	...	146	22	49	3
1950	...	...	...	182	10	20	5
1951	...	...	...	114	26	23	5
1952	...	...	...	164	17	14	3

Although under the Public Health (Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1952, there is no longer a statutory requirement for the Medical Officer of Health to keep a register of tuberculosis notifications, one is still maintained in the department in order that the incidence of tuberculosis in Luton may always be readily available. The following table shows the number of cases on the register at the 31st December, 1952, together with the numbers added to the register and those removed during the year

	<i>Pulmonary</i>		<i>Non-Pulmonary</i>	
	<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>
No. of cases on the Register of Notifications on 1st January	568	414	101	105
No. of cases notified for the first time during the year	88	77	3	14
No. of cases transferred from other districts	12	6	—	—
No. of cases reinstated to the Register ...	7	3	1	—
	<u>675</u>	<u>500</u>	<u>105</u>	<u>119</u>
No. of cases removed from the Register during the year on account of having :				
(a) recovered	9	8	9	2
(b) removed from the district	28	21	1	3
(c) died	18	4	1	1
(d) diagnosis not established	8	3	9	6
(e) lost sight of	78	64	51	22
No. of cases remaining on the Register on 31st December	534	400	34	85

MASS RADIOGRAPHY

The Mass Radiography Unit of the North-West Metropolitan Regional Hospital Board visited Luton from February to June, 1952. After visiting the larger industrial concerns the Unit was located centrally at the British Red Cross Headquarters for the last month and provided facilities for the smaller undertakings and the general public.

A total of 24,725 Luton people or 22.5 per cent of the town's population attended for X-ray. Apart from approximately 1,878 children in their last year at school, all were adolescents or adults.

The following table shows by age and sex the total number X-rayed :—

Age Groups		* R.G.'s Estimate			No. X-rayed			% of Population		
		M	F	All	M	F	All	M	F	All
15-24 years	...	6,000	6,900	12,900	2,817	3,978	6,795	41.9	57.6	52.6
25-34	„	8,100	7,200	15,300	3,748	1,934	5,682	46.2	26.8	37.1
35-44	„	10,200	9,400	19,600	4,318	1,811	6,129	42.3	19.2	31.2
45-54	„	8,500	8,700	17,200	2,989	1,089	4,078	35.1	12.5	23.7
55-60+	„	8,700	11,800	20,500	1,522	519	2,041	17.5	4.4	10.0
All	...	41,500	44,000	85,500	15,394	9,331	24,725	37.0	21.2	28.9

* R.G.'s one per cent. Sample Tables, Census 1951.

DISTRIBUTION BY AGE, SEX AND OCCUPATION OF LUTON
RESIDENTS ATTENDING MASS RADIOGRAPHY, 1952

Age Groups	Professional		Managerial		Clerical Workers		Light Engineering		Building & Allied Trades		Dist. Trades		Hat Workers		Food Trades		Chemical Workers		School Children		Utility		House-wife		TOTAL	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
15-24 years...	17	35	2	1	322	1,433	1,514	502	34	—	15	171	8	537	19	92	22	5	796	1,083	68	33	86	—	2,817	3,978
25-34 „ ...	88	43	28	1	451	716	2,926	414	86	—	48	59	38	139	49	74	33	—	—	—	101	16	472	—	3,748	1,934
35-44 „ ...	79	24	63	5	419	280	3,344	392	140	—	22	89	64	210	39	151	27	2	—	—	121	21	637	—	4,318	1,811
45-54 „ ...	27	14	60	3	276	131	2,352	212	63	—	17	40	63	158	19	100	20	1	—	—	92	22	408	—	2,989	1,089
55-60+ „ ...	12	1	30	—	169	28	1,044	44	61	—	15	14	51	70	30	50	31	—	—	—	79	11	301	—	1,522	519
Totals ...	223	117	183	10	1,637	2,588	11,080	1,564	384	—	117	373	224	1,114	156	467	133	8	796	1,083	461	103	1,904	—	15,394	9,331
Totals ...	340		193		4,225		12,644		384		490		1,338		623		141		1,879		564		1,904		24,725	
Notified Cases ...	1	—	1	1	4	5	22	3	—	—	—	—	—	9	2	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	10	31	29	29

The table on the preceding page shows the distribution by occupation of those who were X-rayed.

Two hundred and twelve persons resident in Luton were referred by the Mass Radiography Unit to the Chest Clinic for further examination.

Age Groups	No. of Luton Persons Referred			Per cent. of No. Examined			Notified Cases		
	M	F	All	M	F	All	M	F	All
15-24 years ...	8	23	31	.31	.57	.45	5	11	16
25-34 „ ...	19	14	33	.50	.72	.58	7	11	18
35-44 „ ...	34	21	55	.78	1.15	.89	9	6	15
45-54 „ ...	40	12	52	1.33	1.10	1.03	5	1	6
55-60+ „ ...	32	9	41	2.10	1.73	2.00	5	—	5
All ...	133	79	212	.86	.84	.85	31	29	60

Of the 212 persons referred to the Chest Clinic for further investigation, 60 were notified as suffering from active pulmonary tuberculosis. This represents .24 per cent. of the total number who attended for mass radiography.

REPORT OF THE CHEST PHYSICIAN

I am indebted to Dr. J. Brian Shaw, Physician at the Luton Chest Clinic for the following report. It should be noted, however, that the Luton Chest Clinic undertakes the treatment of cases from a large part of South Bedfordshire as well as from the Borough of Luton. The statistics in the report include patients living outside the Borough.

“Now well into the fifth year after the implementation of the National Health Service Act it is appropriate to review the great developments during this period. It should be remembered, as far as Bedfordshire is concerned, that a modern tuberculosis service was in process of being established by the Local Authority prior to July, 1948.

“The new organisation of this service, in spite of the artificial divisions of responsibility between the Local Authority and the Regional Hospital Board, has, in fact, functioned surprisingly well. This has been entirely due to the goodwill and commonsense shown by both parties which have allowed a truly unified service at the chest clinic level.

(a) Luton Chest Clinic

“Minor structural alterations have been made to this modern building in an attempt to meet the almost tenfold increase in the number of attendances since 1947. An X-ray department has been fitted with up-to-date radiographical equipment. Recent additions include an Odelca Fluoroscopic Camera Unit capable of taking large numbers of miniature radiographs rapidly and at relatively low cost. In the last two years a chest unit of 32

beds has been opened at St. Mary's Hospital. These bright and pleasant wards are well fitted for all forms of treatment undertaken in a unit of this type.

"The medical staff has had to be increased from time to time. A recent appointment has been that of a thoracic surgeon who, in addition to regular visits for consultation, undertakes minor surgery at the chest clinic. The services of a physiotherapist and occupational therapist have recently been made available.

(b) Treatment

"Ideally the treatment of patients diagnosed as suffering from active pulmonary tuberculosis should take place in a sanatorium or chest hospital. Due to the present shortage of beds many patients cannot be admitted at all or can spend only a short period in hospital for some special form of treatment. Nevertheless it has been the objective to make modern therapy immediately available to any person suffering from this disease. Therefore, great numbers of patients have to be treated in their homes and as out-patients at the chest clinic. None of this would have been possible without the wonderful co-operation and help given by the district nurses who carry out the treatment in the patient's home, the ambulance service which transports the patients regularly to the clinic and the home helps who keep the family going when the mother is confined to bed for perhaps many months at a time.

(c) Beds for Tuberculous Patients

"Apart from the beds in St. Mary's Hospital, a quota of beds has been allotted in several sanatoria in the North-West Metropolitan Region. One of these, Clare Hall Sanatorium, contains the principal unit for thoracic surgery for this area. At the time of writing this report unfortunately, several wards of this hospital have been closed because of shortage of nursing staff. During the period of review a great proportion of the thoracic surgery for this area has been undertaken by the St. Bartholomew's Hospital Unit working at Hill End Hospital.

(d) Prevention

"The examination and supervision of contacts of tuberculous patients forms an essential part of preventive work. The instruction and education of the infectious patient so that he will not spread his disease occupies a position of paramount importance to-day because of extensive domiciliary treatment and the large number of known infectious cases. The tuberculosis visitors who are employed by the local authority and attached to the clinic are most intimately concerned with this work. B.C.G. Vaccination is offered as a routine to all suitable cases.

Year	Contacts seen for First Time	Old Contact Attendances	B.C.G. Vaccinations
1949	621	1,883	—
1950	591	3,293	33
1951	863	4,569	162
1952	788	4,236	153

(e) Visit of the Mass Radiography Unit

“ Since the autumn of 1947 three visits have been made to this town by Mass Radiography Units. Accounts of the first two surveys have already been given. As a result of the most recent survey in 1952, 286 cases were referred to the chest clinic with abnormal radiological shadows. 89 of these were eventually found to have active tuberculosis and 12 had malignant intrathoracic growths. Of the patients with active tuberculosis 14 were found to have tubercle bacilli in their sputum on direct microscopic examination. A further 20 were found to have tubercle bacilli in their sputum only after delicate cultural examination had been made. In 15 who had no cough or sputum laryngeal swabs revealed tubercle bacilli, again only with the aid of cultural examination.

(f) Mortality

“ The falling death rate, as shown by the table below, is an encouraging feature. The fall must be considered to be partly due to the new methods of treatment and the new drugs recently made available.

Pulmonary Tuberculosis—Crude Death Rate per 1,000 persons in the Borough of Luton

1946	1947	1948	1949	1950	1951	1952
0.56	0.42	0.42	0.50	0.20	0.25	0.12*

* Povisional figure.

(g) Morbidity

“ Tuberculosis Register.—In some respects this would appear to be in an inverse ratio to the mortality. Although tuberculosis may be rendered quiescent in a relatively short time, many years must elapse before it is certain that the disease has been arrested. During this period of observation the patient's name will remain on and help to swell the tuberculosis register, and as fewer patients now die it can be expected that the tuberculosis register will not diminish rapidly.

Number of cases on the Tuberculosis Register of Luton Chest Clinic on 31st December

1949	1950	1951	1952
1,404	1,131	1,263	1,433

“ During 1950, 350 patients who had been lost sight of were removed from the register.

(h) New Cases Diagnosed

“ It is known that a Mass Radiography Unit in the survey of an average population finds 3 persons per 1,000 who were previously unsuspected, suffering from active pulmonary tuberculosis. In Luton efforts to find this hidden reservoir of infection are continually being increased. During the past year, in spite of an extensive mass radiography survey, greatly increased use of the X-ray services by the general practitioners and the routine examination of selected groups such as maternity patients, the number of new patients discovered has not appreciably risen.

Year	Patients Diagnosed	Attendances at Chest Clinic	Patients X-rayed
1948	195	7,009	—
1949	183	14,273	4,892*
1950	272	18,582	7,000
1951	223	24,029	10,696
1952	244	26,400	13,503

* The X-ray Unit was installed at the Chest Clinic 25th March, 1949.

(i) Infectious Cases

“ The apparent rise in the number of cases known to have open tuberculosis and who have tubercle bacilli present in their sputum is striking and gives some indication of the size of the problem. Many of these persons have been infectious for a long time although previously unknown, and it should also be borne in mind that in a considerable proportion tubercle bacilli were only found by very delicate laboratory methods and in such small numbers that if the patient takes reasonable care he is unlikely to spread the disease to his companions. Here acknowledgment should be made to the accurate and painstaking work of the Public Health Laboratory Service.

Number of cases known to have Positive Sputa

1949	1950	1951	1952
210	252	232	345

“ In conclusion it seems that there are good grounds for optimism in the future, as far as the treatment of tuberculosis is concerned, provided sanatoria and chest hospitals can be staffed with sufficient nurses to keep their beds open. Preventive measures should increase and not diminish in importance particularly the general measures of housing, nutrition and education. The Luton Council's policy of speedily rehousing open cases of tuberculosis, apart from its present benefits, must have far-reaching effects on the local incidence of this disease in future years.

“ Finally, there are the deficiencies of the service. There is no provision made for the homeless and infectious patient who is often forced to live in most unsuitable lodgings where there are young children. It is realised that there are various difficulties in the running of night sanatoria but something in the nature of a subsidised and controlled lodging house possibly organised with the help of a voluntary body might be considered as an alternative. There is also insufficient provision made for the requirements of the patient who has finished or is in the final stages of treatment. The need for some form of planned rehabilitation for a man who has spent many months in bed is obvious. Lastly, there is the sheltered workshop which alone can ensure that certain types of patients may safely become wage earners again ; such an enterprise has recently been started in Luton.”

FOOD POISONING

No. of notifications ...	...	...	...	...	10
Outbreaks due to identified agents :					
(i) Outbreaks ...	Nil	Cases ...	...	...	Nil
Single cases :					
(i) Agent identified (Salmonella organisms)					10
(ii) Unknown cause ...	...	...	...	...	Nil
Deaths ...	...	...	...	...	Nil

NURSING HOMES REGISTRATION, Public Health Act, 1936.

The registration of nursing homes is governed by the Public Health Act, 1936, and the responsible authority is the County Council. The County Council have, however, delegated their powers to the Borough Council.

Nursing Homes are inspected monthly by the Supervisor of Midwives and during 1952 no contraventions were found.

Name of Nursing Home	Date of Registration with Luton Borough Council	DIVISION OF BEDS			
		Maternity	Surgical	Medical	Total
Westdale ...	1.7.36	4	—	—	4
The Chase ...	3.4.46	7	—	—	7
Inglewood ...	8.2.50	6	—	—	6
Totals ...		17	—	—	17

During the year 107 women were delivered in the Chase Nursing Home, and 98 in the Inglewood Nursing Home.

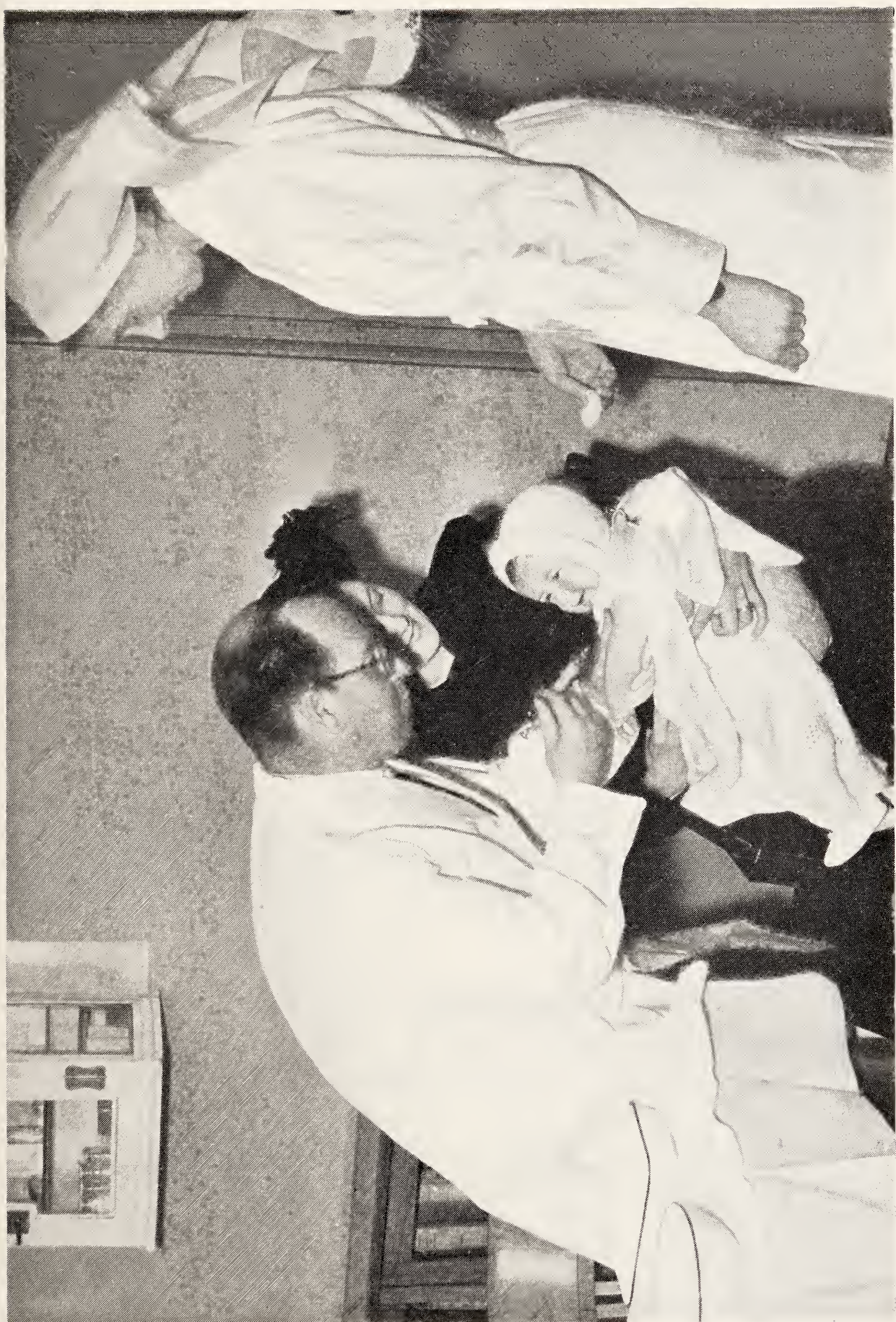
NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948 & NATIONAL ASSISTANCE (AMENDMENT) ACT, 1951

Removal to Suitable Premises of Persons in need of care and attention

Section 47 of the National Assistance Act, 1948, gives the Local Authority power to compulsorily remove to hospital or other such premises persons suffering from grave chronic disease, or who being aged, infirm or physically incapacitated, are living in insanitary conditions and are unable to devote to themselves and are not receiving from other persons proper care and attention.

Under this enactment the Public Health Committee can, on receipt of a report from the Medical Officer of Health, authorise application to a Magistrates' Court for the person's removal to hospital or other suitable place, and for his detention for a period not exceeding three months.

Under the provisions of the National Assistance (Amendment) Act of 1951, the Local Authority can, where urgent removal is considered necessary, authorise the Medical Officer of Health to take immediate action seeking a Magistrates' Order to detain the person in suitable premises for a period not exceeding three weeks,



DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION



HOME HELP COURSE — COOKERY DEMONSTRATION

Photo by Luton News

A few cases are brought to the department's notice each year, but every effort is first made to alleviate or remedy the circumstances by the provision of a domestic help or district nurse. It is only where these efforts fail or are not practicable that action is taken under one of the aforementioned Acts.

During 1952, 10 cases were brought to the notice of the department, but it was necessary only in one instance to obtain a Magistrates' Order for removal to hospital. This was done under the National Assistance (Amendment) Act, 1951. The patient, a man aged 83 years suffering from grave chronic disease, was living alone in insanitary conditions in condemned property. He died within 48 hours of his admission to hospital.

HEALTH EDUCATION

Health Education is the responsibility of the Borough Council, but the Local Health Authority contributes 50 per cent. of the expenditure incurred. During the year forty-six lectures and talks were given by members of the staff to parent/teacher associations, men's and women's fellowships, political organisations, food handlers, home helps, nursery students, etc., comprising in all some twelve hundred persons. Subjects were selected to suit the various audiences and included :—

Health Services	...	...	11 lectures
Child Care ...	...	...	12 „
Food Hygiene	...	...	14 „
Home Safety	...	...	7 „
School Health	...	...	2 „

The lectures under the heading "Health Services" cover a wide range of the departments activities, but particular emphasis is given to the importance of diphtheria immunisation, food hygiene and home safety. The lectures in child care—given to girls' youth organisations—are concluded by an examination, successful candidates qualifying for their association badge.

The acquisition of a sound projector in June proved a great asset, sound films being used to illustrate many of the lectures. Films were also shown at ante-natal clinics, infant welfare centres and day nurseries, and films on technical subjects were shown at meetings of the Sanitary Inspectors of the Herts. and Beds. Branch.

Prepared slides were shown at local cinemas to give advance publicity to the visit of the Mass Radiography Unit in May. Public response at the time of the visit was so favourable that it was decided to seek permission from the cinema Public Relations Officers for the periodic showing of slides on other health subjects. Permission was granted and for 18 weeks during the year slides on diphtheria immunisation, food hygiene and tuberculosis were shown at local cinemas. The success of many public health services largely depends on an awakening of public consciousness to the part that can be played by the individual. The public response to the measures so far adopted is encouraging.

DIVISIONAL HEALTH SERVICES



NATIONAL HEALTH SERVICE ACT, 1946

SECTION 22—CARE OF MOTHERS AND YOUNG CHILDREN

(a) Provision of Clinics

Thirteen sessions are held weekly at the eleven Infant Welfare Centres situated in the various parts of the town. In September an additional centre was opened in the Park Street Baptist Church to relieve congestion at the Castle Street Centre and to provide more facilities in the southern part of the area.

There was a slight increase in the total number of attendances as compared with 1951.

NUMBER OF CONSULTATIONS, WEIGHINGS, ETC., AT INFANT WELFARE CENTRES, DURING THE YEAR 1952

	Number of Sessions	Attendances				Medical Officer's Consultations	
		0-1 years		1-5 years		Under 1 year	1-5 years
		1st	Sub.	1st	Sub.		
Dallow Road ...	49	163	2,547	16	706	1,190	391
Stopsley ...	52	75	1,467	1	325	420	53
Leagrave High St.	50	77	1,307	2	375	350	104
Leagrave Marsh Road ...	52	106	1,789	6	646	775	161
Round Green ...	52	149	1,968	7	420	753	101
Castle Street ...	52	173	3,092	10	425	823	169
Beechwood ...	100	216	3,783	3	1,043	1,109	246
Limbury ...	98	155	2,583	13	704	557	165
St. Anne's ...	49	105	1,614	4	434	661	131
Farley Hill ...	51	164	2,322	8	413	742	158
Park Street ...	15	16	416	5	41	80	14
	620	1,399	22,888	75	5,532	7,460	1,693

The number of children attending the Infant Welfare Centres for the first time expressed as a percentage of the number of births registered during each of the last five years was as follows :—

1948	...	...	...	85.9 per cent.
1949	...	...	...	89.0 „ „
1950	...	...	...	82.5 „ „
1951	...	...	...	83.0 „ „
1952	...	...	...	84.4 „ „

(b) Premature Infants

A premature infant is defined as one weighing less than 5½ lbs. at birth. The term includes, therefore, somewhat small, but healthy babies who require little more than ordinary care and management, and, on the other hand, infants who are so small that they have little chance of surviving however much care they are given.

Between these extremes are infants who, with expert attention, have a good chance of becoming healthy, vigorous babies, but who would probably not survive the ordinary rigours of early life which the normal baby meets without harm.

Special arrangements for the care of premature infants in their homes are made within the midwifery service, and infants who cannot be cared for at home are admitted to hospital.

Premature births which were notified during the year are analysed below according to place of birth, and birth weight.

NOTIFIED PREMATURE INFANTS CLASSIFIED ACCORDING TO BIRTH WEIGHT

	2 lb. 3 oz. or less	over 2 lb. 3 oz. to 3 lb. 4 oz.	over 3 lb. 4 oz. to 4 lb. 6 oz.	over 4 lb. 6 oz. to 4 lb. 15 oz.	over 4 lb. 15 oz. to 5 lb. 8 oz.	Weight not Re- corded	All
Number ...	4	9	32	30	52	5	132
No. surviving after 24 hours	3	4	28	30	52	2	119
No. surviving after 8 days...	—	3	24	30	52	2	111
No. surviving at 4 weeks* ...	—	3	24	30	52	2	111

* Compiled January 28th, 1953

Place of Birth

Notified Births.

Born in Maternity Institutions :

(a) Under control of North-West Regional Hospital Board	105
(b) Other	13
Born at home	14
Total	132

REGISTERED PREMATURE INFANTS*
CLASSIFIED ACCORDING TO BIRTH WEIGHT

	2 lb. 3 oz. or less			Over 2 lb. 3 oz. to 3 lb. 4 oz.			Over 3 lb. 4 oz. to 4 lb. 6 oz.			Over 4 lb. 6 oz. to 4 lb. 15 oz.			Over 4 lb. 15 oz. to 5 lb. 8 oz.			Weight not Recorded			All			Total
	D	NH	I	D	NH	I	D	NH	I	D	NH	I	D	NH	I	D	NH	I	D	NH	I	
Number	—	—	4	1	—	4	1	5	16	2	1	17	10	5	18	—	1	4	14	12	63	
Number surviving after 24 hours	—	—	3	1	—	1	1	5	13	2	1	17	10	5	18	—	—	2	14	11	54	79
Number surviving after 8 days	—	—	—	1	—	—	1	4	11	2	1	17	10	5	18	—	—	2	14	10	48	72
Number surviving at 4 weeks	—	—	—	1	—	—	1	4	11	2	1	17	10	5	18	—	—	2	14	10	48	72

* Corrected for inward and outward transfers.

D—Domiciliary. NH—Nursing Home. I—Institutional.

Place of Birth

Registered Births.

Born in Maternity Institutions :

(a) Under control of North-West Regional Hospital Board	63
(b) Other	12
Born at home	14
Total	89

(c) Contraceptive Clinic

All patients are referred to the contraceptive clinic by a medical practitioner.

There was an increase in the number of sessions held and also of patients attending during the year. Forty-eight sessions were held and there were 202 new patients. Subsequent attendances totalled 569.

(d) Orthopaedic and Ophthalmic Clinics

Children under the age of five years requiring Orthopaedic or Ophthalmic treatment are referred to the ordinary school clinic sessions.

(i) <i>Orthopaedic Clinic</i>	<i>Under 1 year</i>	<i>1-5 years</i>	<i>Total</i>
No. of NEW cases	11	49	60
No. of OLD cases	1	42	43
Total attendances	16	175	191
No. of cases referred for exercises			4
No. of cases referred for appliances			5
No. of cases referred for X-ray			4
No. of cases referred for admission to hospital			4
No. of cases referred to Hospital Out-Patients' Department			16
No. of cases discharged			13
No. of cases still on register			57

<i>Classification</i>	<i>No. of Cases</i>	<i>Attendances</i>
Bowing of Legs	5	7
Congenital Defects	5	10
Foot Defects	10	19
Knock Knees	53	99
Postural Defects	2	11
Wry Neck	8	13
Other Defects	20	32
	103	191

(ii) <i>Ophthalmic Clinic</i>	<i>Under 1 year</i>	<i>Over 1 year</i>	<i>Total Att.</i>
No. of first attendances	8	28	36
No. of sub. attendances	30	166	196
Total attendances	38	194	232
	<i>Errors of Refraction and Squint</i>	<i>Other diseases or defects</i>	<i>Prescriptions for spectacles</i>
No. of first attendances	32	4	Nil
No. of sub. attendances	167	29	18
Total	199	33	18

(e) Dental Clinic

Children under 5 years requiring dental treatment are referred to the ordinary School Clinic sessions and during the year 55 children made 67 attendances.

No expectant or nursing mothers received treatment.

(f) Day Nurseries

The three day nurseries in the area provide accommodation for 165 children, 62 under 2 years and 103 between the ages of 2 and 5 years. Two of the nurseries are approved by the Ministry of Health as being suitable and providing in full the necessary facilities for the training of nursery students. During the year three students were successful in obtaining the Certificate of the Nursery Nurses Examination Board.

The Nurseries are open five days a week from 7.15 a.m. to 6.30 p.m. daily and during 1952 were open on 253 days. Owing to shortages of staff the numbers of children attending one nursery were markedly reduced during the latter part of the year, but attendances generally at the nurseries show a slight decrease as compared with 1951.

	<i>Manor Road</i>	<i>Alder Crescent</i>	<i>Stopsley</i>
No. of Children on Register 1.1.52 ...	44	63	46
No. of Children added to Register ...	72	128	63
No. of Children removed from Register	67	134	70
No. of Children remaining on Register 31.12.52	49	57	39
No. of Children on waiting list 31.12.52	17	7	14
No. of Sessions	253	252	254
Attendances—0–2 years	1,119	3,184	2,716
2–5 years	8,586	9,193	6,146
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total attendances	9,705	12,377	8,862
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Average daily attendances (Monday–Friday)	38	49	34

The following table shows the reasons for admissions to the nurseries during 1952 :—

Categories	No. on Register 1.1.52	No. admitted during 1952	No. on Register 31.12.52
Illness of Parents	31	77	26
Debilitated Children	3	6	2
Confinement	3	24	3
Illegitimacy	16	20	20
Children of Widows/Widowers	9	7	6
Parents separated	46	36	35
Father in H.M. Forces	14	6	10
Adverse housing conditions, poor financial circum- stances, etc.	31	87	43
Total	153	263	145

SECTION 23—MIDWIFERY

Midwifery Service

The establishment for this service provides for a non-medical supervisor of midwives and nine domiciliary midwives—one for each of the districts into which the area has been divided. All are fully trained in the use of gas and air analgesia and the administration of pethidine.

Midwives clinics are held fortnightly at Dallow Road, Farley Hill and Stopsley. A medical officer's session is held weekly and there are arrangements for patients to be referred, where necessary, from this clinic to the Consultant Obstetrician at the local maternity hospital. In addition the midwives hold five sessions per fortnight for patients wishing to attend exercises for relaxation in childbirth.

For the first time for some years, the work performed by this service shows a slight decrease as compared with the previous year, attributed to the decline in the birth rate.

For comparative purposes the figures for 1951 are shown in parenthesis.

Domiciliary Midwifery Service

Number of Confinements

			<i>Acting as Midwife</i>	<i>Acting as Maternity Nurse</i>	<i>Total</i>
1948	...	...	207	194	401
1949	...	...	143	273	416
1950	...	...	211	401	612
1951	...	...	236	416	652
1952	...	...	263	371	634

Administration of Gas and Air Analgesia by :

(a) Midwives	...	161 (144)				
(b) Maternity nurses...	212 (213)	Total	...	...	373 (357)	

Administration of Pethidine by :

(a) Midwives	...	126 (147)				
(b) Maternity Nurse	...	196 (257)	Total	...	322 (404)	

Number of maternal deaths ... — (—)

Number of infantile deaths ... 2 (4)

Number of visits paid by midwives ... 19,701 (21,175)

Total attendances of patients at midwives' clinics ... 2,681 (2,685)

Attendances of patients at consultant clinics :

(a) Ante-natal	...	420 (420)				
(b) Post-natal	...	67 (91)	Total	...	487 (511)	

SUPERVISOR OF MIDWIVES

Routine inspection visits ... 6

Special enquiry visits in respect of notifications :

(a) Medical Help	...	51	
(b) Stillbirths...	...	—	
(c) Deaths occurring in practice	...	—	
(d) Ophthalmia Neonatorum	...	—	
(e) Laying out the dead	...	—	
(f) To supervise disinfection	...	—	

Other visits :

Puerperal Pyrexia	...	7	
Maternal deaths	...	—	
Nursing mothers	...	145	
Labour visits	...	4	
Nursing Homes	...	29	
Administration of Gas and Air Analgesia	...	—	
Ante-Natal and Post-Natal	...	203	
Administration	...	659	
Total	...	1,104	

Ante-Natal Clinics attended ... 208

NOTIFICATIONS RECEIVED FROM MIDWIVES DURING THE YEAR 1952

	Nursing Homes	Domi- ciliary Midwives	Maternity Hospital and Extension	Inde- pendent Practice	Total
(a) Intention to practice ...	5	12	23	1	41
(b) Intention to cease prac- tice	—	—	—	—	—
(c) Change of address ...	—	—	—	—	—
(d) Change of name ...	—	—	—	—	—
(e) Sending for medical help	—	61	—	—	61
(f) Stillbirths occurring in practice	2	10	2	—	14
(g) Deaths occurring in practice—					
(i) Mothers ...	—	—	—	—	—
(ii) Infants	1	—	1	—	2
(h) Laying out the dead ...	2	—	2	—	4
(i) Liability to be a source of infection	—	5	—	—	5
(j) Substitution of artificial feeding	18	48	81*	—	147

* Since 1st July, 1952, only.

Distribution of Midwives, December 31st, 1952

(a) In Private Nursing Homes	...	...	5
(b) Domiciliary Midwives	...	...	11
(c) Maternity Hospital and Ext.	...	...	23
(d) Private Practice (Independent)	...	...	1

Luton is recognised as a training school for Part II midwives, and during the year 17 pupil midwives undertook their domiciliary training as required by the Central Midwives Board.

Medical Aid

During the year medical aid was sought in 61 of the midwives' cases.

SECTION 24—HEALTH VISITING

The shortage of health visitors continues, the number at present employed (six and a half plus a superintendent health visitor as compared with eight and a half and a superintendent health visitor last year) being roughly equivalent to 50 per cent. of the recognised establishment. The policy of State Registered Nurses undertaking school medical duties was continued. In addition State Registered Nurses supplement the work of the Health Visitor in Infant Welfare Clinics, working under the direction of the Health Visitor in charge at each centre.

By arrangement with the Hospital Paediatrician, a health visitor accompanies the paediatrician once a week on his ward round at the Children's Hospital. The purpose of this arrangement is for the paediatrician to advise the health visitor on the after care and supervision of children discharged from Hospital, whilst on the other hand, the health visitor is able to indicate to the paediatrician the social circumstances and needs of the children who have been admitted.

Despite the decrease in staff, the number of visits paid show an increase over previous years as the following table shows.

HOME VISITS BY HEALTH VISITORS

	Children under 1 year		Children 1-5 years		Expectant Mothers		Special Visits Infectious Disease, etc.	Infant Life Protection	Total Visits
	First Visits	Re-Visits	First Visits	Re-Visits	First Visits	Re-Visits			
1943 ...	1,986	8,594	45	8,603	—	238	4,997	203	24,666
1944 ...	2,760	7,981	173	7,451	—	171	3,980	288	22,804
1945 ...	2,608	6,233	183	8,399	—	66	3,417	489	21,395
1946 ...	2,394	4,948	181	7,744	60	19	4,352	250	19,948
1947 ...	2,832	4,194	359	7,072	68	—	4,439	119	19,083
1948 ...	2,167	3,780	224	7,037	41	—	4,386	122	17,757
1949 ...	2,013	3,794	316	8,008	39	—	3,122	117	17,409
1950 ...	1,748	3,274	175	7,987	2	—	4,473	169	17,828
1951 ...	1,782	5,226	80	13,709	1	—	984	152	21,934
1952 ...	1,756	6,881	25	13,163	63	—	1,346	61	23,295

NATIONAL SOCIETY FOR THE PREVENTION OF CRUELTY TO CHILDREN

During the year 1952 the Inspectors were responsible for dealing with 16 cases (involving 56 children) at the request of the Department.

SECTION 25—HOME NURSING SERVICES

The Division is divided into eight districts for home nursing purposes. One nurse is responsible for each district and a relief nurse is also employed.

Normally the nurse is summoned by the Hospital Almoner or family doctor and works under the direction of the latter. The service is often supplemented by a domestic help. Nursing requisites and sick room equipment are available through the St. John Ambulance Brigade who issued 711 articles during the year.

The volume of work carried out by the nurses showed an increase over the previous year both as regards number of patients attended and number of visits made.

NUMBER OF CASES ATTENDED

Type of Case	District								All
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	
Acute Medical ...	55	50	58	37	51	29	50	60	390
Chronic Medical ...	30	31	32	24	64	27	35	35	278
Surgical ...	16	17	19	15	18	20	30	13	148
Infectious Disease	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Abortion ...	2	2	—	—	1	—	1	—	6
Other ...	21	17	14	24	18	38	14	21	167
Totals ...	124	117	123	100	152	114	130	129	989

NUMBER OF VISITS

Type of Case	District								All
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	
Acute Medical ...	368	713	1,222	636	891	712	500	925	5,967
Chronic Medical ...	2,225	1,724	844	729	1,913	867	2,119	2,100	12,521
Surgical ...	429	473	545	804	577	695	790	569	4,882
Infectious Disease	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Abortion ...	6	13	—	—	8	—	6	—	33
Other ...	43	129	92	515	46	265	122	56	1,268
Totals ...	3,071	3,052	2,703	2,684	3,435	2,539	3,537	3,650	24,671

CASES ATTENDED BY TYPE, AGE AND SEX

Type	Male						Female						All
	Ages in years						Ages in years						
	0-4	5-14	15-24	25-44	45-64	65+	0-4	5-14	15-24	25-44	45-64	65+	
Cardio-vascular Lesions ...	—	—	—	1	12	36	—	—	1	4	20	73	147
Genito-urinary Cord ...	—	—	—	1	2	27	—	—	2	13	11	29	85
Neoplasm ...	—	—	—	1	11	9	—	—	—	2	15	19	57
Respiratory T.B. ...	—	—	6	16	8	2	—	—	11	15	3	—	61
Other Respiratory Infections	—	3	—	8	3	9	1	2	2	4	5	17	54
Other Infections ...	5	5	2	7	2	2	1	4	3	10	9	7	57
Gastro-intestinal Disorders	—	4	4	7	9	15	10	7	2	12	12	15	97
Preparation for X-ray ...	1	1	3	17	24	9	1	—	—	10	21	13	100
Post-operative Treatment ...	7	1	—	3	6	13	—	—	1	4	8	10	53
Rheumatism and Arthritis ...	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	4	7	11	23
Blood Diseases ...	—	—	—	2	3	2	—	—	—	1	3	6	17
Diabetes ...	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	1	1	8	21	33
Accident and Injury ...	—	5	—	1	1	—	—	1	—	—	2	12	22
Senility ...	—	—	—	—	—	13	—	—	—	—	—	58	71
Skin Diseases ...	—	1	1	5	8	10	1	—	1	14	22	28	91
Other Conditions ...	—	—	1	1	1	2	1	1	1	3	5	5	21
Total ...	13	20	17	70	91	151	15	15	25	97	151	324	989

DURATION OF NURSING CARE (Completed cases only)

Type of Case	7 days or less	8-28 days	1-3 months	3-6 months	Over 6 months	All
Acute Medical ...	182	101	60	15	6	364
Chronic Medical ...	50	53	52	19	13	187
Surgical ...	31	34	26	13	9	113
Infectious Disease ...	—	—	—	—	—	—
Abortion ...	2	4	—	—	—	6
Other ...	104	19	4	1	2	130
Totals ...	369	211	142	48	30	800

SECTION 26—VACCINATION AND IMMUNISATION**Vaccination**

Vaccination in the normal way is carried out entirely by the family doctor. The figures for 1952 show a decrease of 195 in respect of primary vaccinations and 202 for re-vaccination.

	Under 1 year	1-4 years	5-14 years	15 years and over	Total
Primary vaccination ...	339	45	40	173	597
Re-vaccination ...	—	1	19	141	161
Totals ...	339	46	59	314	758

Immunisation

The importance of immunisation against diphtheria is constantly being given the widest possible publicity.

In addition to the card which is sent to parents when a child is 8 months old, slides have been shown on several occasions during the year at local cinemas, and poster displays have been set up in infant welfare clinics stressing the danger of diphtheria and the importance of immunisation.

Although the number of immunisation sessions held during the year was practically doubled, the number of children immunised shows a decrease of 330. There was, however, a slight increase in the number of re-inforcing injections.

It is estimated that over 75 per cent. of the school population is immunised, yet more than one-third of the pre-school children are still unprotected.

Number of clinics held ...	63
Number of children who have completed course ...	681
Number of children immunised by general practitioners ...	759
Number of children immunised at nurseries ...	26
Total number immunised ...	1,466
Number of re-inforcing sessions at schools ...	47
Re-inforcing courses at clinics ...	125
Re-inforcing courses at schools ...	628
Re-inforcing courses by general practitioners ...	427

Number of Children who had completed a full course of Immunisation at any time up to 31st December, 1952.

(According to Health Department Records)

Age at 31.12.52	Under 1 year	1 year	2 years	3 years	4 years	5 to 9 years	10 to 14 years	Total under 15
Number Immunised	769	1,032	1,403	1,907	864	6,726	5,375	18,076
Estimated mid-year Population, 1952	9,288					16,011		25,299

	<i>Under 5 years</i>	<i>Between 5 and 15 years</i>
Estimated percentage of the child population immunised at 31st December, 1952	64.3%	75.5%
(a) Number of cases of diphtheria in children under 15 years of age notified during the year	0	
(b) Number of cases included in (a) in which the child is known to have completed the course of immunisation not less than 12 weeks before the onset of the disease ...	0	
(c) Number of deaths from diphtheria registered in the Authority's area during the year, of children under 15 years of age	0	
(d) Number of deaths included in (c) in which the child is known to have completed the course of immunisation not less than 12 weeks before the onset of the disease ...	0	

SECTION 29—DOMESTIC HELP SERVICE

There is a growing demand from old people for help in the home. It will be seen that 29 per cent. of households assisted were of old people and that 56 per cent. of them (14.6 per cent. of all families assisted) had received home help assistance for a period longer than 12 months.

It should be remembered that many old people live entirely alone and are semi-invalids. In some instances, discharge from hospital was made possible by the fact that a home help would be attending in the home. The majority however, need only a little assistance, two half days per week at the most, and are dependent upon this small amount of help to enable them to carry on. There can be no doubt as to the value of the domestic help service to the old people.

Number of full-time home helps on books at December 31st, 1952 23

Number of part-time home helps on books at December 31st, 1952 46

Number of householders helped during the year:

(a) Maternity cases	...	...	...	140			
(b) Tuberculous cases	...	...	...	27			
(c) Other cases	...	...	...	435	Total	...	602

Number of hours of assistance provided during the year :

(a) Maternity cases	...	...	...	7,893			
(b) Tuberculous cases	...	...	...	5,996			
(c) Other cases	...	...	...	69,137	Total	...	83,026

Number of cases in which full fee was not charged :

(a) Maternity cases	...	...	...	42			
(b) Tuberculous cases	...	...	...	12			
(c) Other cases	...	...	...	163	Total	...	217

Cost to local authority of assessed cases £3,171

AMOUNT OF ASSISTANCE PROVIDED WEEKLY

Type of Case	Up to 8 hours	8-12 hours	12-20 hours	20-30 hours	Over 30 hours	Total	% of Whole
Pregnancy and Confinement	23	10	38	34	35	140	23
Tuberculosis	10	6	6	4	1	27	5
Chronic Illness	54	15	3	—	1	73	12
Hospital, or Ex-Hospital	46	27	18	4	4	99	17
Emergency, or other Illness	40	16	19	8	3	86	14
Aged Persons	122	39	10	4	2	177	29
Total	295	113	94	54	46	602	—
Percentage of whole ...	49%	19%	16%	9%	8%	100%	100

LENGTH OF TIME ASSISTANCE PROVIDED

Type of Case	Up to 4 weeks	1-3 months	3-6 months	6-12 months	Over 12 months	Total
Pregnancy and Confinement	122	17	1	—	—	140
Tuberculosis	2	7	6	2	10	27
Chronic Illness	2	7	9	10	45	73
Hospital, or Ex-Hospital ...	29	48	10	12	—	99
Emergency, or Other Illness	51	34	1	—	—	86
Aged Persons	14	26	8	30	99	177
Total	220	139	35	54	154	602
Percentage of whole ...	36%	23%	6%	9%	26%	100%

REPORT

OF THE

Chief Sanitary Inspector

Public Health Department,
63-69 Guildford Street,
LUTON.

February, 1953.

His Worship the Mayor, Aldermen and
Burgesses of the Borough of Luton.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The problem of preventing the emission of excessive black smoke from a factory in the Beech Hill area is one which has claimed the attention of the Council for many years and, in an effort to discover a solution, advice has been sought at the highest level and many investigations and experiments have been carried out. It is therefore gratifying to be able to record that a method of obtaining smokeless fuel combustion at this factory has at last been found and is being adopted. In the same area the presence in the atmosphere of polluting agents other than smoke has also given rise to considerable anxiety and here too a measure which will effectively reduce the amount of sulphur oxides has been secured. Even so, a heavy industrial haze continues to persist, but this is being conscientiously tackled by the firm concerned. The enquiries into the degree of atmospheric pollution have been greatly facilitated by the measuring instruments sited at four places in the town and the recordings for 1952 are illustrated by the graphs on pages 79 and 80.

The comments of the Public Analyst, Mr. C. Harcourt Wordsworth, on both atmospheric pollution recordings and food and drugs samples are new to the report and provide interesting information.

During the year 12 Demolition or Closing Orders were made under the Housing Act, and over the past five years 51 houses have been dealt with similarly. These figures are not however a guide to the degree or the rate at which houses are falling beyond economic repair. A truer indication of the extent of bad housing conditions in the town was found from a pilot survey which was carried out during the autumn of 1952. Approximately 1,000 houses were examined in the older part of the town, from which it was estimated that 1,800 houses were suitable for inclusion in clearance areas within the next decade, and of these at least 357 should receive early attention.

In September the Council resolved that notices for the provision of dustbins should be served under the Public Health Act, 1936, instead of under the Luton Corporation Act as hitherto. The former Act differs from the local one in that it provides for an Appeal to a Court of Summary Jurisdiction instead of the more expensive Appeal to Quarter Sessions. Owners and occupiers of dwelling houses hold opposing views as to who

should provide the dustbin and frequent enquiries are made to the Health Department. Suffice it to say that either may legally be required to make the provision, but the decision on whom notice shall be served rests with the Council.

An improved standard of hygiene is in evidence in most of the food trades, but there are one or two black spots which still have to be dealt with. The improvements which have taken place are attributable in no small measure to the work of the specialist inspector on food hygiene who regularly visits the restaurant kitchens and canteens and gives advice on equipment and structural alterations. In addition district inspectors visited all food shops during the year, discussed with traders the new model byelaws and issued copies for their guidance. At the same time the opportunity was taken of explaining the marking of foods under the Merchandise Marks Orders. The town market was greatly improved by a reconstruction of the fish section.

Two model bakehouses were built during the year enabling the closure of two of the remaining underground bakehouses. In 1938 there were 14 underground bakehouses ; now all are closed with the exception of two, and the Council have resolved to take steps to secure their closure during 1953.

The urgent need for the erection of a Municipal abattoir is generally recognised and considerable disappointment was felt both by the Council and the Retail Butchers Association when the local planning authority refused planning consent to the site which had been chosen. This decision was contested by the Council, but was upheld by the Ministry of Housing and Local Government. An alternative site suitable for an abattoir has been found which, it is hoped, will have the approval of the various authorities concerned, and permit the building of an abattoir without further delay.

A new duty for sanitary inspectors was imposed by the Pet Animals Act which came into operation on 1st April, 1952. The Council adopted the recommendations of the Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, and the seven licensed premises were required to conform to this standard.

There has been an increase in the number of visits paid for all purposes. One thousand visits have been made under the Housing Survey. This has been possible because for the first time in many years, there has been a full staff of sanitary inspectors.

I should like to express my gratitude to the Chairman and Members of the Public Health Committee, the Medical Officer of Health and Officers of the Corporation for their advice and friendly co-operation. I should also like to thank my Deputy and District Inspectors and Staff for their ready and loyal assistance throughout the year.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient servant,

G. F. MACEFIELD,

Chief Sanitary Inspector.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

GENERAL

Luton, which has an area of 8,736 acres, is situated in a valley between the Chiltern Hills at 200 to 400 feet above sea level in the town, rising to 400 to 600 feet above sea level on the surrounding hills. It is mainly built upon the upper chalk, with loam and clay deposits.

Meteorology.—The Luton Meteorological Station, which is under the control of the Borough Engineer, is situated in Wardown Park, New Bedford Road. During the year the following observations were taken :—

Sunshine.—1,505 hours of sunshine were recorded, the sunniest day being 21st May, 1952, when 14.7 hours were recorded.

Rainfall.—The total rainfall recorded was 26.11 inches, the wettest day being 30th September, 1952, when .96 inches of rain were recorded.

Temperatures.—The maximum temperature was 86°F., recorded on 1st July, 1952, and the minimum temperature was 15°F., recorded on 5th December, 1952. The mean temperature for the year was 48.28°F.

Wind.—The prevailing wind was North-West.

WATER SUPPLY

The following information has been supplied by the Luton Water Company.

“ The water supply for Luton is derived from deep wells in the chalk situated in Crescent Road and Runley Wood. Chlorination of the supply is carried out, the average amount of chlorine pumped into the supply being 0.25 parts per million.

	1951 <i>million gallons</i>	1952 <i>million gallons</i>
(1) Estimated total consumption for the Borough—whole year	1,819	1,877
(2) Estimated domestic consumption for the Borough—whole year	956	1,034
(3) Estimated industrial consumption for the Borough—whole year	863	843

“ With a population of 109,600, the total number of gallons used per head per day was approximately 47, an average of 26 gallons per head per day for domestic use, and 21 gallons per head per day for industrial purposes.

“ The total daily consumption in 1952 was 5 million gallons. The safe yield of the Company's existing works is just over 4 million gallons per day, and from this, allowance has to be made for the supply of approximately 3,000 people living outside the Borough. The present demands are only

being met by over-pumping. After very protracted negotiations, the Ministry of Housing and Local Government awarded a starting date in April, 1952, for the first instalment of the new source works under the Luton Water Order, 1951. They comprise the construction of a new pumping station at Friars Wash, near Markyate, with the necessary pipe-line to Luton. When completed, it is estimated that the works will provide an additional 2 million gallons per day for Luton's use. Constructional work was put in hand immediately the authority to proceed was given and it is hoped that a certain amount of water will be available from the new Friars Wash source before the end of 1953. On financial grounds, the Ministry have only permitted the partial development of the scheme and it may be some time before permission is granted for the entire scheme to be completed.

Distribution

“ The mainlaying required for Leagrave No. 2 Housing Estate has been completed during the year, whilst that required for the first instalment of the Ramridge End Estate has been practically completed.

“ Mains have also been extended as requisite to meet housing extensions at Meyrick Avenue, Runfold Avenue, and Kingsway Housing Estate, Putteridge Road.

“ A temporary steel service tank has been brought into service at Chaul End, to ensure adequate supplies to the Farley Hill Estate pending the construction of a permanent service reservoir, which is part of the Friars Wash Scheme, but which the Ministry are unable to authorise for the time being.

“ The supply position of cast-iron pipes for water main extensions gave rise to some anxiety during the year, but in fact no housing projects were actually held up on this account. The improving supply position should enable future requirements for main extensions to be met satisfactorily.

Sampling of Water

“ All sources of supply are subjected to analysis by the Local Public Health Laboratory Service at weekly intervals, the Public Analyst making a more detailed analysis of each source of supply at monthly intervals.

Plumbo-Solvency of Water

“ We are informed by the Water Pollution Research Laboratory that the water supplied from our chalk wells at Crescent Road is slightly plumbo-solvent. Tests were carried out on a length of unused lead pipe and it was found that although the percentage of lead dissolved in the water was relatively small, this quantity was not reduced over a period of 14 days by any insoluble coating being formed on the inside of the pipe. In these circumstances although the quantity of lead dissolved in the water is small we are advised by the Water Pollution Research Laboratory not to use lead pipe for drinking water services. Plumbo-solvency is not usually associated

with waters as hard as that supplied by this Company, but we understand that the percentage of carbon dioxide in the water is rather higher than normal which accounts for this exceptional case.

“ In the past no lead service pipes have been fitted in the Borough, at any rate during the present century, and instructions to plumbers carrying out work in the area of supply have always insisted on the use of steam quality galvanised tube for all water services. However, short lengths of lead pipe connecting the galvanised pipe to wash-basins or to water closet cisterns have been permitted, and it is considered that the use of such short lengths is not a source of danger. This practice is still continued although the Company prefers the use of copper throughout the whole of the plumbing installations and the total avoidance of lead wherever possible.”

No. of dwellings supplied from piped water mains direct to the houses	...	...	...	...	...	...	31,056
No. of dwellings supplied from piped water mains to standpipes	...	...	...	...	...	...	120
No. of dwellings supplied from wells	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
No. of samples of water examined by the Public Health Laboratory Service for free chlorine and <i>Bacillus Coli</i>							189

Number of samples of water obtained from :—

Crescent Road Pumping Station	...	...	...	91
Runley Wood Pumping Station	...	...	...	97
Other sources	...	...	...	1
				— 189

Classified results of the above samples :—

Class 1—Highly Satisfactory	...	...	...	184
Class 2—Satisfactory	...	...	...	2
Class 3—Suspicious	...	...	...	1
Class 4—Unsatisfactory	...	...	...	2
				— 189

During the year advantage was taken of facilities available to take samples of the raw untreated water at Runley Wood at the same time chlorinated samples were obtained. All the unsatisfactory samples referred to above were of the raw untreated water which after chlorination were reported upon as satisfactory.

The following is a copy of the Public Analyst's latest report on the mains supply (taken 17th December, 1952) :—

- No. 1/95 Crescent Road No. 5 Well, Unchlorinated.
- No. 2/95 Crescent Road No. 4 Well, Chlorinated.
- No. 3/95 Runley Wood (Chalk), Chlorinated.
- No. 4/95 Runley Wood (Chalk), Unchlorinated.

Chemical Analysis

			<i>Parts per 100,000</i>			
			No. 1/95	No. 2/95	No. 3/95	No. 4/95
Free Ammonia ...	...	...	0.0156	0.0002	0.0002	0.0002
Albuminoid Ammonia...	...	...	0.0008	0.0004	0.0002	0.0002
Oxygen absorbed in 4 hours at 80°F.	...	...	0.045	0.065	0.032	0.039
Nitrites ...	...	...	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Nitrogen as Nitrates ...	...	...	0.892	1.070	0.432	0.433
Chlorine ...	...	...	2.8	2.8	1.8	1.8
Hardness, Total ...	...	...	34.5	37.0	41.0	40.0
Hardness, Permanent ...	...	...	8.5	11.0	13.0	12.5
Total Solids ...	...	...	40.0	45.0	45.5	46.0
Sulphate as SO ₄ ...	...	...	2.8	4.0	6.7	6.7
pH value ...	...	...	7.1	7.1	7.0	7.0
Free Chlorine (ppm) ...	...	...	Nil	0.3	0.6	Nil

All samples were clear. Sample 3/95 had a smell of chlorine, the remainder being free from smell.

The microscopic examination revealed the presence of some mineral fragments and organic debris in each of the four samples.

Bacteriological Examination

Number of organisms per c.c. growing at 20° C. in 3 days ...			...	Nil	42	2	2
Liquefying organisms ...			...	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Number of organisms per c.c. growing at 37° C. in 48 hours ...			...	2	2	2	1
Bacillus Coli ...			...	absent from 100 ml.	absent from 100 ml.	absent from 100 ml.	absent from 100 ml.

Opinion

The condition of these four samples is satisfactory and the waters may be used for dietetic purposes.

For the first time a chemical and bacteriological examination is included in the report upon two samples of water from the Greensand source at Runley Wood, the installation to which was reconditioned during the year.

No. 5/95 Runley Wood, Greensand Raw.

No. 6/95 Runley Wood, Greensand Filtered.

Chemical Analysis

						<i>Parts per 100,000</i>	
						No. 5/95	No. 6/95
Free Ammonia	...	...	...	...	...	0.0144	0.0132
Albuminoid Ammonia	...	...	...	...	...	0.0004	0.0004
Oxygen absorbed in 4 hours at 80°F.	...	...	...	...	...	0.052	0.071
Nitrites	...	...	...	...	...	Nil	Nil
Nitrogen as Nitrates	...	...	...	...	...	0.046	0.039
Chlorine	...	...	...	...	...	2.2	2.2
Hardness, Total	...	...	...	...	...	26.0	26.5
Hardness, Permanent	...	...	...	...	...	9.0	5.5
Total Solids	...	...	...	...	...	30.0	30.5
Sulphate as SO ₄	...	...	...	...	...	4.5	4.5
Total Iron (Fe ppm.)	...	...	...	...	...	2.5	Nil
Soluble Iron (Fe ppm.)	...	...	...	...	...	Nil	Nil
Total Aluminium (ppm.)	...	...	...	...	...	Nil	Trace
Free Carbon dioxide (ppm.)	...	...	...	...	...	25.3	—
pH value	...	...	...	...	...	7.0	7.1

Sample No. 5/95 Was slightly turbid and free from smell.

Sample No. 6/95 Was clear and free from smell.

The microscopic examination revealed the presence of some mineral and organic fragments in each sample, the raw water depositing iron oxide over some days.

Bacteriological Examination

Number of organisms per c.c. growing at 20°C. in 3 days	...	...	...	...	...	2	6
Liquefying organisms	...	...	...	...	...	Nil	Nil
Number of organisms per c.c. growing at 37°C. in 48 hours	...	...	...	...	...	1	2
Bacillus Coli	...	...	...	...	...	Absent from 100 ml.	Absent from 100 ml.

Opinion

The results indicate that the treatment applied to the raw water will yield a potable supply of good quality.

SEWERAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL

The drainage of the Borough is on the separate system, except in the Stopsley area and the old part of the Borough where it is combined.

The soil water sewage is dealt with at the New Mill End Sewage Purification Works by sedimentation and bio-aeration. The sludge is treated with lime, dried and sold for manurial purposes. The effluent is discharged into the River Lea at New Mill End.

CLOSET ACCOMMODATION

The following table shows the number of pail closets, chemical closets and cesspools in the Borough at the end of December, 1952 :

Pail closets	...	...	...	...	3
Chemical closets	...	...	...	...	77
Cesspools	...	...	...	...	147

Thirteen cesspools were abolished, and two constructed during the year.

All pail closets are emptied either once or twice weekly between the hours of 6 a.m. and 7 a.m.

Cesspools are emptied by means of mechanical plant as and when required. Six hundred and sixty-two emptyings were arranged during the twelve months ended 31st December, 1952.

The scheme referred to in the 1951 Report for the conversion of pail closets to the water carriage system was duly carried out in the early part of the year.

An increase in the number of chemical closets is again recorded. These are either situated at premises where no sewer is available or attached to caravans.

DRAINAGE

A considerable improvement has been effected by the Spittlesea Isolation Hospital being connected to the public sewer, the former arrangements of local treatment being discontinued. This also provides an additional safeguard to part of the town's water supply at Crescent Road.

Negotiations were also undertaken with the Governors of the Alexandra Hospital with a view to more satisfactory sewage disposal from the Stockwood Park mansion. By the end of the year the negotiations had reached an advanced stage and it is hoped that a permanent satisfactory scheme will be effected during 1953.

PUBLIC CLEANSING—REFUSE DISPOSAL

The following information is supplied by the Director of Public Cleansing.

“ The method of refuse disposal is controlled tipping and during the year the weight of refuse dealt with was 49,966 tons.

In spite of continuing shortages of labour (and the right kind of labour), a frequency of refuse collection of seven days was maintained generally throughout the Borough.”

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA

NUMBER AND NATURE OF INSPECTIONS MADE

Complaints reported to Public Health Department	...	...	1,234*
Primary Inspection :			
Where nuisances were found	...	...	1,715*
Where complaint was received and no nuisance found	...	...	91
Under Housing Acts	...	...	399
Where Infectious Disease has occurred...	...	...	163
Bakehouses	...	...	113
Canteens	...	...	256
Caravans, Tents, etc.	...	...	22
Common Lodging Houses	...	...	8
Cowsheds	...	...	25
Dairies and Milkshops	...	...	202
Factories	...	...	110
Fish Curing Premises	...	...	2
Fish Frying Premises	...	...	45
Food Preparing Premises	...	...	260
Food Preparing Premises (Ice Cream)	...	...	316
Food Storage Premises	...	...	277
Houses Let in Lodgings	...	...	1
Marine Stores	...	...	1
Markets and Shops	...	...	107
Offensive Trades	...	...	12
Outworkers' Premises	...	...	125
Overcrowding	...	...	11
Public Houses	...	...	51
Restaurant Kitchens	...	...	629
Slaughterhouses (for meat inspection)	...	...	1,685
Schools	...	...	119
Shops Act, 1950, Section 38	...	...	226
Stables and Piggeries	...	...	5
Theatres and Amusement Halls	...	...	8
Urinals—Public and Private	...	...	38

* These figures do not include 610 complaints and 1,248 primary visits in connection with Rats and Mice, which are dealt with elsewhere in the Report.

OTHER VISITS OR INSPECTIONS

Drainage	Number of drains tested or exposed	...	...	...	53
Food Inspection (excluding Slaughterhouses)	...	...	...	441	
Interviews	...	...	...	...	1,382
Investigations of Infestations of Insect pests (excluding bugs)	...	...	...	78	
Investigations of Bug Infestations	...	...	...	...	61
Atmospheric Pollution	...	...	...	...	437
Inspection of Fuel Appliances	...	...	...	...	57
Smoke Observations	...	...	...	...	45
Merchandise Marks Acts visits	...	...	...	...	441
Pet Animals Act visits	...	...	...	...	17
Rag Flock and Other Filling Materials Act visits	...	...	...	14	
Visits to obtain Water Samples for Analysis	...	...	...	406	
Visits under the Food and Drugs Act, for samples, etc.	...	...	...	1,178	
Visits to property under notice or work in progress	...	...	...	4,491	
Miscellaneous visits	...	...	...	...	441
Visits—No access	...	...	...	...	752
					<hr/>
					17,316

ABATEMENT OF NUISANCES

Drainage reconstructed	...	...	...	...	...	...	44
„ repaired, trapped, etc.	...	...	...	...	...	...	56
„ unstopped	...	...	...	...	...	...	279
Chambers constructed	...	...	...	...	...	...	24
Repairs to chambers or new covers	...	...	...	...	...	...	19
Cesspools emptied because of overflow	...	...	...	...	...	...	8
Cesspools replaced by water carriage system	...	...	...	...	...	...	8
Soil or vent pipes—new fixed	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
„ „ repaired	...	...	...	...	...	...	16
Water closets—repaired or supplied with water	...	...	...	...	...	...	116
„ „ new pans or pedestals fixed	...	...	...	...	...	...	81
„ „ additional constructed	...	...	...	...	...	...	14
Pail closets—replaced by water closets	...	...	...	...	...	...	12
„ „ abolished...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1

Waste Pipes—repaired or trapped	...	...	...	...	...	41
„ „ or R.W.P.'s disconnected from drains	...	...	...	...	...	18
„ „ R.W.P.'s and eaves gutters repaired	...	...	...	...	...	218
Sinks provided or replaced	...	...	...	...	...	22
Accumulations of refuse removed	...	...	...	...	...	31
Animals, fowls, etc.	...	...	...	...	...	5
Brickwork or pointing repaired	...	...	...	...	...	151
Coppers repaired or renewed	...	...	...	...	...	14
Dampness remedied	...	...	...	...	...	81
Damp proof courses inserted	...	...	...	...	...	2
Dustbins supplied	...	...	...	...	...	77
Fireplaces, stoves and flues repaired	...	...	...	...	...	91
Flooring and other woodwork repaired or renewed	...	...	...	...	...	162
Floors—concrete or quarried repaired or renewed	...	...	...	...	...	30
Gas fittings or services repaired	...	...	...	...	...	8
Gullies in street unstopped	...	...	...	...	...	4
Overcrowding abated	...	...	...	...	...	11
Plaster repaired	...	...	...	...	...	181
Rats and mice infestations abated	...	...	...	...	...	1,165
Rent Books made to comply with the requirements of Housing Act	...	...	...	...	...	7
Roofs made watertight	...	...	...	...	...	282
Smoke nuisances	...	...	...	...	...	8
Walls and ceilings cleansed	...	...	...	...	...	30
Water supplies reinstated or made sufficient	...	...	...	...	...	7
Water, Houses connected to Town's supply	...	...	...	...	...	1
Wells disused made safe	...	...	...	...	...	2
Windows—Cords, fasteners and glass repaired or renewed	...	...	...	...	...	192
Premises treated against insect pests	...	...	...	...	...	82
Verminous rooms fumigated	...	...	...	...	...	282
Ventilation improved	...	...	...	...	...	2
Ventilation—sub-floor provided	...	...	...	...	...	1
Yards and passages paved	...	...	...	...	...	28
Miscellaneous	...	...	...	...	...	74
Total	...	...	...	...	...	3,992

STATUTORY NOTICES

NUMBER OF LEGAL NOTICES ISSUED FOR ABATEMENT OF NUISANCES

	<i>Served</i>	<i>Complied with</i>
Number of Outstanding Notices, 31st Dec., 1951	62	62
Public Health Act, 1936. Section 24	6	6
Public Health Act, 1936. Section 39	25	22
Public Health Act, 1936. Section 45	6	5
Public Health Act, 1936. Section 56	7	7
Public Health Act, 1936. Section 93	34	31
Luton Corporation Act, 1911. Section 36	5	5
Food and Drugs Act, 1938. Section 13	2	2
	<hr/> 147 <hr/>	<hr/> 140 <hr/>
No. of Outstanding Notices at 31st December, 1952	7	

Legal proceedings were instituted in four cases in respect of non-compliance with notices issued under Sections 39, 45, 56 and 93 of the Public Health Act, 1936, and Section 36 of the Luton Corporation Act, 1911.

DISINFECTION AND DISINFESTATION

Premises inspected where notifiable diseases have occurred ...	163
Cases removed to Isolation Hospital	36
Rooms disinfected after infectious, contagious or other disease, etc.	507
Premises where repairs or redecorations have been carried out after infectious diseases	4
Rooms where walls and ceilings were rubbed down after infectious diseases	85
Visits paid to ascertain if notices to repair or redecorate have been complied with	10
Rooms disinfected by occupiers	96
Premises visited tracing infectious diseases	301
Articles disinfected by steam at request of owners	775
Articles disinfected by fumigants at request of owners	1,249
Articles destroyed by burning at request of owners	229
Total visits paid to infected premises	474
Wasps nests destroyed	16

Nine hundred and seventy-four library books were withdrawn from circulation and were disinfected before they were returned.

During the year 10 gallons of disinfecting fluid were supplied to the public, free of charge, for use in premises where cases of infectious disease, etc., had occurred.

Following complaints of infestation by uncommon insects, four sets of specimens were sent to the British Museum for identification. One of these was of the rare carpet beetle which has aroused some interest in the National Press recently. In all cases the valuable advice proffered by the Entomologist enabled the Department to deal effectively with the infestations.

Forty complaints of infestations by bed bugs were received during the year, and in all instances disinfestation was carried out. The use of liquid vermicide containing DDT was relied upon for treating the infestations, and proved satisfactory. In five instances reinfestation occurred.

The following table shows the number of premises and rooms dealt with during 1952 :

	Number of Premises		Number of Rooms	
	Found to be infested	Disinfested	Found to be infested	Disinfested
Number of Council Houses	12	12	28	28
Number of other Houses	49	49	133	133
Number of cases where disinfestation has been carried out prior to removal from Clearance Areas, etc., into new Council Houses	—	—	—	—
Number of cases where disinfestation has been carried out by Corporation Disinfecting Officer	61	61	161	161
Number of cases where disinfestation has been carried out by Occupants or Contractors	—	—	—	—
Number of complaints of infestation received (40)	40	40	106	106
Number of cases found by Sanitary Inspectors	21	21	55	55

RATS AND MICE DESTRUCTION

During the year the sewers received one maintenance treatment for rat infestation. This was carried out in May, when 466 manholes were dealt with and 55 takes observed.

So far as business premises were concerned no noteworthy change occurred. The majority of rat infestations at dwelling-houses occurred where poultry or pets were kept in the house gardens or in those of adjoining premises.

The Corporation Refuse Tip again received special treatment, and at no time during the year has the infestation been out of hand. In addition, other special treatment was given to certain of the larger works in the town.

During the year it was found necessary, because of increased costs and because of the use of an improved but more expensive type of treatment,

to increase the charge for treatment of business premises from 3/6 to 6/- per hour per operative, inclusive of materials. This is the first time since 1945 that the charge for this work has been increased.

An analysis of the work is detailed below :

			Com- plaints received	No. of premises involved	Treatment com- pleted	Treatment in progress	Bodies found
Private Dwellings	{ Rats ...	...	353	827	862	17	931
	{ Mice ...	...	97	105	107	1	638
Business Premises	{ Rats ...	...	73	83	86	1	321
	{ Mice ...	...	87	110	110	2	1,511
Totals	Rats ...	...	426	910	948	18	1,252
	Mice ...	...	184	215	217	3	2,149

PUBLIC SWIMMING BATHS

There are two Public Swimming Baths in the Borough, both owned by the Corporation.

The Public Baths are situated in Waller Street, Luton, and consist of a covered Swimming Pool, 46 Slipper Baths and one Vapour Bath. The Open Air Pool situated off New Bedford Road, Luton, caters for swimming and bathing only.

During the season of 1952 the following number of bathers attended :

				<i>Waller Street Baths</i>	<i>Open Air Swimming Pool</i>
Swimming Bath Total	...	...	...	77,279	90,786
Hot Baths	...	...	...	53,092	Nil
Total	...	...	...	<u>130,371</u>	<u>90,786</u>

Chloroscope examinations of the water are carried out by the attendants twice a day, and in addition, samples of the water are sent to the Public Analyst for examination each month. During the past year, reports have been very satisfactory.

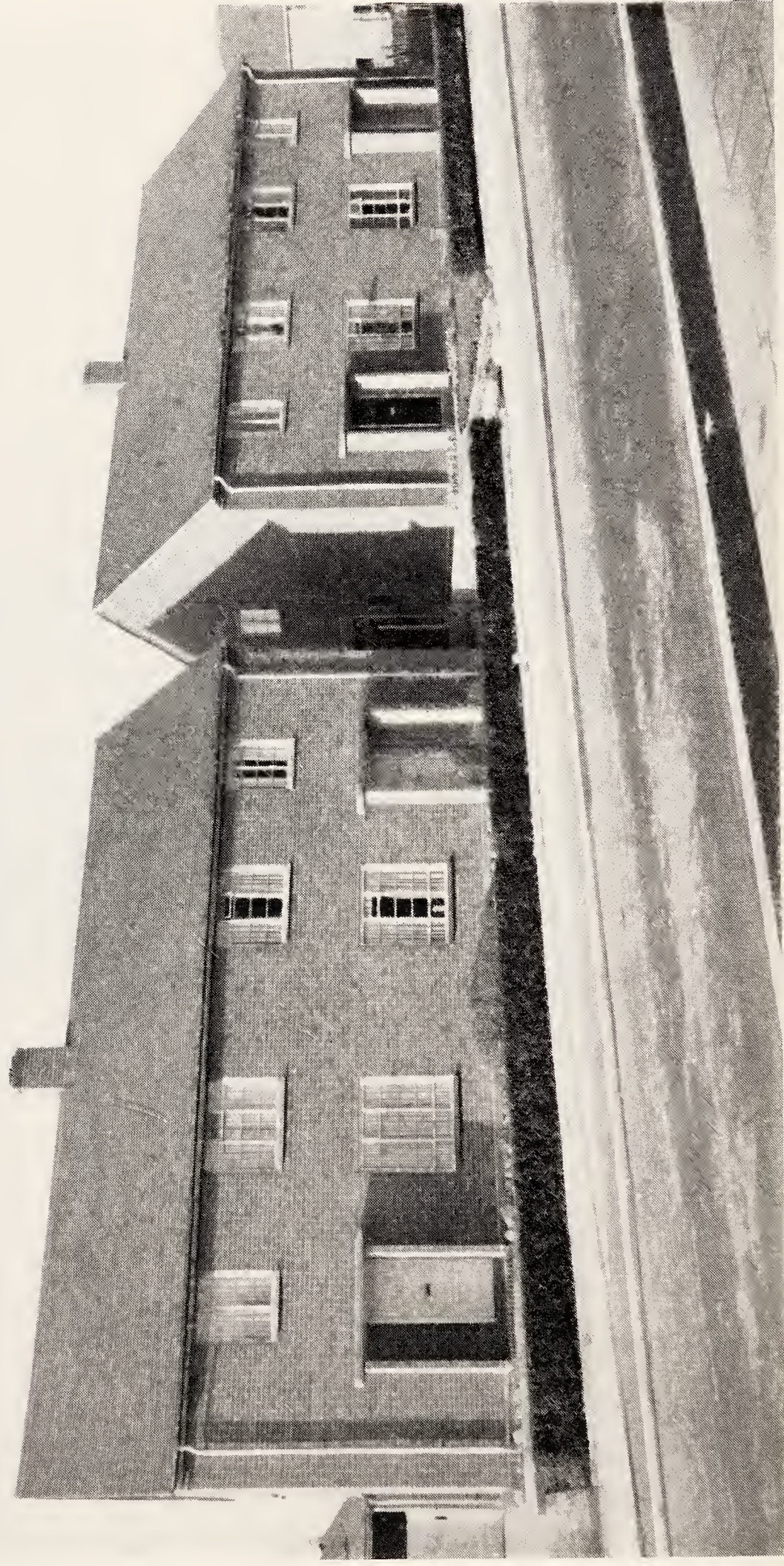
Throughout the swimming season twenty-four samples were taken from the three pools (including that at the Luton High School) for examination by the Public Health Laboratory Service and were reported upon as follows :

22 Satisfactory and 2 Unsatisfactory.

The two unsatisfactory samples were taken at a time when the chlorination plant was not working. All subsequent samples proved satisfactory.



UNFIT HOUSES — 1952



NEW HOUSES, FARLEY HILL ESTATE

THEATRES

Inspection of sanitary accommodation in the cinemas and theatres has been made during the year. Where minor sanitary defects were found, they were attended to.

One cinema which had been derelict was replanned and re-equipped and opened during the year. Another existing cinema closed down towards the end of the year.

ATMOSPHERIC POLLUTION

The four recording stations maintained by the Department continued to operate throughout the year. Three of these consisted of a standard deposit gauge and lead peroxide candle, and one of lead peroxide candle only.

The contents of the various instruments are forwarded monthly to the Public Analyst for examination. Results are sent to the Director, Fuel Research Station, East Greenwich, for inclusion in the National Bulletin which is published monthly.

A volumetric apparatus for recording sulphur dioxide and suspended matter is operated at the Town Hall. From this, daily readings are taken. These results are forwarded to East Greenwich for inclusion in the National Bulletin.

The report of the Public Analyst contains his observations on the results obtained from the various instruments.

In addition an experimental apparatus for determining the total sulphur oxides in the atmosphere in the Beech Hill area was installed early in the year. This apparatus is of particular concern to the Fuel Research Station under whose guidance it is operated.

During the year 45 smoke observations were also made and 8 warnings were issued about the excessive emission of smoke.

Upon a complaint of dust emanating from a foundry, the matter was taken up with the firm concerned who arranged for stricter maintenance of the filtering equipment, and extended the height of the flue from which the emission was discharged. This appears to have effectively abated the nuisance.

PET ANIMALS ACT, 1951

An Act to regulate the conditions under which pet animals are kept pending sale came into force on 1st April, 1952. It provides for the licensing of premises from which pet animals are sold and empowers a local authority to make conditions regarding the housing and care of the animals.

Seven premises were licensed for this purpose during 1952, but one of them closed before the end of the year.

RAG FLOCK AND OTHER FILLING MATERIALS

Two premises are registered for the manufacture of new articles containing filling materials and nine samples of assorted materials were taken for examination. All were reported upon as satisfactory.

OFFENSIVE TRADES

During the year one of the two offensive trades in the Borough closed down and re-opened in other premises under new management. Fourteen visits were paid during the year to the various premises to ensure that the provisions of the Act were complied with.

THE FACTORIES ACT, 1937
INSPECTION OF FACTORIES

FACTORIES, FACTORIES (NO MECHANICAL POWER) AND
WORKPLACES

Premises inspected	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	351
Premises inspected and found satisfactory	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	310
Premises inspected and found unsatisfactory	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	41
Factories where defects were found and referred by H.M. Inspector	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	26
Reports on action taken sent to H.M. Inspector	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	26
Number of defects remedied as a result of H.M. Inspector's notifications	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	69

LIST OF DEFECTS FOUND IN FACTORIES, FACTORIES (NO
MECHANICAL POWER) AND WORKPLACES

Rat or mice infestation	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	61
Water Closet, unsuitable or defective	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	10
„ not lighted	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	8
„ dirty condition	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	11
„ needing repair	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	7
„ without indication	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	9
„ not screened	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
„ not separate for sexes	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
„ insufficient	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
Washing facilities absent or inadequate	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Heating insufficient	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Cleanliness, Want of	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
Unregistered	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Miscellaneous	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	55
								178

During 1952, three of the remaining basement bakehouses in the Borough closed. In two instances their occupiers had erected new modern premises and in the third the business was changed to general grocery and the use of the bakehouse discontinued.

At the end of the year notice was given to the occupiers of the two remaining basement bakehouses that the local authority intended to take steps to secure their closure during 1953.

REGISTERED FACTORIES AND FACTORIES (NO MECHANICAL POWER)

FACTORIES ACT, 1937

The following is a classified list of the Factories and Factories (No Mechanical Power) on the Register at 31st December, 1952.

FACTORIES

Aircraft Manufacturers	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Artificial Flowers	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Bakehouses	...	...	...	...	...	...	37
Ball Bearing Manufacturer	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Beer Bottling, Coffee Roasting and Grinding	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Biscuit Manufacturer	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Blacksmiths	...	...	...	...	...	...	5
Bleachers, Dyers and Felt Body Makers	...	...	...	...	...	...	14
Boot Repairers	...	...	...	...	...	...	24
Brass and Aluminium Founders	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Builders	...	...	...	...	...	...	5
Cardboard Box Makers	...	...	...	...	...	...	15
Carnival Goods...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Cellulose Spraying	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Chemical Makers	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
Chocolate, Cocoa and Sweet Manufacturer	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Cigarette Manufacturers	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Coach and Motor Body Builders	...	...	...	...	...	...	7
Corn Merchant	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Dairies	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Dry Cleaning and Dyeing	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
Electric Appliances	...	...	...	...	...	...	8
Electrical Engineers	...	...	...	...	...	...	13
Electro-Plater	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Engraver	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Feather Dyeing and Mounting	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Feather Sorting and Grading	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Felt Products	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Flour Mill	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
French Polisher (Cabinets)	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Fur Dressers and Dyers	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Furriers	...	...	...	...	...	...	5
Garment Makers and Menders and Corset Makers	...	...	...	...	...	...	18
Gas and Coke Production	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
General Engineers	...	...	...	...	...	...	42
Glass Workers	...	...	...	...	...	...	6
Grass Mat Maker	...	...	...	...	...	...	1

Hat Blockers and Blockmakers	...	...	...	...	...	...	24
Hat Lining Manufacturers	...	...	...	...	...	...	10
Hat Manufacturers	...	...	...	...	...	...	209
Hat Materials Merchants	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
Ice Cream Manufacturers	...	...	...	...	...	...	5
Iron Founders	...	...	...	...	...	...	8
Joiners, Woodworkers and Carpenters	...	...	...	...	...	...	39
Knitted Hood Maker and Proofer	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Laundries	...	...	...	...	...	...	8
Leather Goods	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Light Engineering	...	...	...	...	...	...	8
Machine Makers	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
Meters, Motor Car Parts Manufacturer	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Millinery	...	...	...	...	...	...	6
Mineral Water Manufacturers and Brewers	...	...	...	...	...	...	5
Motor Vehicle Engineers, Repairs and Cycle Repairs	...	...	...	...	...	...	61
Optician	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Paint Manufacturers, Wall Papers, etc.	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
Pattern Makers	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Photographic Printers and Developers	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Plastics	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Potato Crisp Manufacturer	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Powder Puffs, Braces, etc., Manufacturer	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Printers and Letterpress Printers	...	...	...	...	...	...	23
Radio and Television Repairs...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
Sausage Makers, Pie Makers, etc.	...	...	...	...	...	...	11
Saw Mills	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
Scale Maker	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Sewing Machine Engineers	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Sheet Metal Workers	...	...	...	...	...	...	11
Signwriters	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
Soap Powders Manufacturers	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Stone Masons	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Tailors and Clothiers	...	...	...	...	...	...	20
Tinsmith	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Trailer Caravans	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Typewriter Repairs	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
Undertaker	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Upholsterers	...	...	...	...	...	...	10
Welders	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Miscellaneous	...	...	...	...	...	...	33

FACTORIES (NO MECHANICAL POWER)

Bakehouses	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	8
Builders' Yard and Brickmaker				...	...	...	...	1
Coach Builders and Repairers, Motor Vehicle and Cycle Repairers								2
Dress and Coat Makers' Alterations	...		...	...	...	...	...	6
Electrical Engineers	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Featherwork	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
French Polisher...		...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Furniture Repairs		...	...	...	...	...	...	1
General Engineer		...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Gut-Scraping	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Hat and Millinery Manufacturers				...	...	...	...	5
Photographer	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Tailors	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	5
Miscellaneous	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	13
								49

OUTWORKERS RETURNS

NATURE OF WORK	OUTWORKERS LISTS Sections 110, Factories Act, 1937					Outworkers in Unwholesome Premises Section 111, Factories Act, 1937			Outwork in Infected Premises Sec. 153, P.H.A., 1936			Lists forwarded to other Authorities				Lists received from other Authorities													
	Lists received from Employers and Other Authorities			No. of Cases of Default in sending Lists to the Council	No. of Prosecutions for Failure to Supply Lists	No. of Instances of Work in Unwhole- some Premises	Notices Served	Prosecutions	Instances	Orders made Sec. 153, P.H.A., 1936	Prosecutions Sec. 153, P.H.A., 1936	No. of Local Authorities to whom Lists of Outworkers have been Forwarded	No. of Lists	Workmen	Contractors	No. of Local Authorities from whom Lists have been Received	No. of Lists	Workmen	Contractors										
	Lists	Workmen	Contractors																										
Making, etc., of Wearing Apparel Box Making ... Brush Making ... Lampshade Making Leather and Fancy Goods ... Feather Mounting... Button Covering ...	108	1,354	1	—	—	—	—	—	Where cases have arisen work has been withheld by verbal arrangement No separate records kept.	—	—	104	120	435	—	4	4	4	—										
	4	21	—	—	—	—	—	—												—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—												—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	1	4	—	—	—	—	—	—												—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	2	186	—	—	—	—	—	—												—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	3	75	—	—	—	—	—	—												—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Totals ...	120	1,644	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	104	120	472	—	4	4	9	—										
	118	1,038	—	—	—	—	—	—	Where cases have arisen work has been withheld by verbal arrangement No separate records kept.	—	—	10	12	129	—	5	5	9	—										
	3	16	—	—	—	—	—	—												—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—												—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	1	4	—	—	—	—	—	—												—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	2	187	—	—	—	—	—	—												—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
3	78	—	—	—	—	—	—	—												—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Totals ...	127	1,323	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	10	12	176	—	5	5	9	—										

Total number of firms employing outworkers who live in the Borough 150
 Total number of outworkers employed who live in the Borough 1,541
 The homes of all outworkers are visited by the Sanitary Inspectors who deal with any nuisance or other irregularity.

HOUSING

I.—Inspection of Dwelling-houses during the year :

(1) (a) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	2,301
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	6,098
(2) (a) Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Acts	12
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose. Visits to properties already recorded in (2) (a)	527
(3) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation ...	12
(4) Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	1,217

II.—Remedy of defects during the year without service of formal Notices :

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers	1,045
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III.—Action under Statutory Powers during the year :

A.—Proceedings under Sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936 :

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	0
(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices :	
(a) By Owners	0
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners ...	0

B.—Proceedings under Public Health Acts :

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which formal notices were served requiring defects to be remedied ...	49
(2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices :	
(a) By Owners	56
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners ...	22

C.—Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936 :

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	8
(2) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	1
(3) Number of Undertakings not to re-let given by owners...	2
(4) Dwelling-houses acquired and demolished by Corporation	0

D.—Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936 :

(1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made	2
(2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit	0

Housing Act, 1936

(a) (i) Number of dwellings overcrowded at end of year ...	88
(ii) Number of families dwelling therein	153
(iii) Number of persons dwelling therein	682
(b) Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year	6
(c) (i) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year (20 families in 11 houses)	11
(ii) Number of persons concerned in such cases	102
(d) Cases in which dwelling-houses have again become overcrowded after the Local Authority have taken steps for the abatement of overcrowding	0
(e) (i) Number of Council houses found to be overcrowded at end of year	5
(ii) Number of families dwelling therein	12
(iii) Number of persons dwelling therein	39
(f) Number of cases of overcrowding in Council houses relieved during the year	3

HOUSING SURVEY

In the second half of the year a preliminary pilot survey was carried out to ascertain the number of sub-standard houses in the Borough which needed to be dealt with under the clearance procedure of the Housing Act, 1936. In the worst streets the houses were inspected in the ratio of 1 : 3, and in the better streets, 1 : 7. Nine hundred and five houses were inspected. It was estimated that in the area surveyed there were 2,781 properties which required housing action and of those 1,800 were classified for clearance in three stages.

The Council decided to submit the report to the Ministry of Housing and Local Government for observations.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

FOOD AND DRUGS ACTS, 1938-1944

MILK

Milk and Dairies Regulations, 1949

No. of persons registered as Distributors	...	...	...	180
No. of premises registered as Dairies	...	...	...	15

Milk (Special Designation) (Pasteurised and Sterilised Milk) Regulations, 1949 and 1950

No. of Dealer's (Pasteuriser's) Licences	...	...	...	4
No. of Dealer's Licences to use the special designation Pasteurised	...	...	...	47
No. of Supplementary Licences to use the special designation Pasteurised	...	...	...	2
No. of Dealer's Licences to use the special designation Sterilised	...	...	...	155
No. of Supplementary Licences to use the special designation Sterilised	...	...	...	2

Milk (Special Designation) (Raw Milk) Regulations, 1949 and 1950

No. of Dealer's Licences to use the special designation Tuberculin Tested	...	...	...	15
No. of Supplementary Licences to use the special designation Tuberculin Tested	...	...	...	1

BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATION OF MILK

During the year 327 samples of milk were submitted for bacteriological examination, the results of which are shown in the table opposite.

BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATION OF MILK

Designation of Milk	Total Samples Sub- mitted	Methylene Blue Test		Samples Cancelled Statutory Minimum Temperature not reached	Per- centage Satis- factory	Phosphatase Test		Per- centage Satis- factory	Turbidity Test		Per- centage Satis- factory
		Passed	Failed			Passed	Failed		Passed	Failed	
Pasteurised ...	243	234	4	5	98.32	235	8	96.71	—	—	—
Sterilised ...	24	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	24	0	100.00
Tuberculin Tested (Pasteurised) ...	58	56	0	2	100.00	58	0	100.00	—	—	—
Ungraded ...	2	2	0	0	100.00	—	—	—	—	—	—

EXAMINATION OF MILK

SECTION 25, FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1938

Two samples of milk were taken and tested by guinea-pig inoculation and both samples were found to be free from tubercle bacilli and brucella abortus.

BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATION OF WASHED CHURNS, MILK AND OTHER BOTTLES

Eighty-seven washed milk bottles were taken for examination during the year.

Forty-eight were found to be "satisfactory" (not more than 600 bacteria per pint bottle); 18 were "fairly satisfactory" (more than 600 bacteria but less than 2,000 bacteria per pint bottle); and 21, with a count of more than 2,000 bacteria, were unsatisfactory.

Four churn rinsings were also taken for examination, 2 of which were satisfactory and 2 fairly satisfactory.

Where unsatisfactory bottles were reported, the dairymen concerned were visited and advice given.

Twenty-four washed soft drink bottles were taken for examination. Reports showed 20 satisfactory and 4 unsatisfactory.

REGISTRATIONS OF PREMISES USED FOR THE MANUFACTURE, STORAGE OR SALE OF FOOD

[illegible]

FOOD HYGIENE

The number of establishments serving meals and snacks on the register at 31st December, 1952, was 361. During the year 22 new premises were opened and 15 closed.

The following list shows the various types of premises on the register :—

Restaurants	...	...	...	...	...	83
Snack Bars	...	...	...	...	...	45
School Canteens	...	...	...	...	...	28
School Kitchens only	...	...	...	...	...	20
Factory Canteens	...	...	...	...	...	47
Canteens serving Snacks only	...	...	...	...	...	38
Commercial Hotels and Boarding Houses	...	...	...	...	...	15
Social Clubs	...	...	...	...	...	3
Mobile Canteens	...	...	...	...	...	2
Public Houses and Public Houses serving Snacks	...	...	...	...	...	80

All plans submitted to the Borough Engineer's Department concerning food premises are examined by the Sanitary Inspector before being presented to Committee. The Licensing Department of the Ministry of Food at Bedford refers all applicants for licences to open food premises in Luton to the Department. This arrangement ensures that the hygienic standards of the Department are met before any new premises are opened.

Talks with the aid of film strips have been given to canteen staffs in seven factories and stores, and five lectures have been given to other Associations including the Domestic Help Service. Managements in factories and stores are most co-operative in this work and the staffs show considerable interest.

During the year a detailed inspection was carried out of nine public houses belonging to one brewery. Five were found to reach a fair hygienic standard and after consultation with a representative of the brewers, improvements were effected to the other four which brought them to a comparable level.

The following is a list of work carried out during the year :—

Number of visits and re-visits made	...	...	1,005
Number of interviews held	...	...	84
Number of letters sent or arrangements made	...	...	120
Number of letters or arrangements complied with	...	...	126
Number of Lectures given	...	...	14

Work carried out :—

Premises completely redecorated	...	...	18
Premises partly redecorated	...	...	58
Water heaters installed	...	...	4
Walls and ceilings cleansed	...	...	12
Sinks renewed	...	...	13
Washing facilities provided...	...	...	1
Dustbins provided	...	...	1
New water closets constructed	...	...	1
Kitchen rebuilt	...	...	1
Miscellaneous work	...	...	30
			139

During the year the Specialist Sanitary Inspector responsible for Food Hygiene spent an extended vacation in the United States of America. During this period the opportunity was taken to visit the Health Departments in various towns and cities and much of interest was learned, particularly in regard to teaching methods and personnel training. Useful contacts were made and a close liaison established with the New York State Department of Health, whose literature is received each month in the Department.

ICE-CREAM

One hundred and seventeen samples of ice-cream were examined by the Public Health Laboratory Service.

Judging the samples of ice-cream on the time taken to decolorise Methylene Blue and applying the Public Health Laboratory Service grading, the results of the examinations are shown below :

PUBLIC HEALTH LABORATORY SERVICE GRADING			
Grade 1	Grade 2	Grade 3	Grade 4
39	52	22	4

The results of samples taken during the year have continued the gradual trend towards improvement which has been the feature of this work since the introduction of the Ice Cream (Heat Treatment, etc.) Regulations, 1947.

Out of a total of 117 samples examined, 26 fell in Grades 3 and 4, and these are regarded as unsatisfactory. In all such cases the matter was taken up with the firm concerned, or where the factory was situated in the area of another authority, a copy of the unsatisfactory report was forwarded to the appropriate officer.

Fifty-five samples of ice lollies were taken and 51 of these were reported as satisfactory. The remaining 4 were manufactured by a firm outside the Borough and the matter was taken up with the authority concerned.

Two samples of flavour from which these articles are made were taken as a check against metallic contamination. Both samples were reported as satisfactory.

BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATION OF SHELL-FISH

Three samples of shell-fish were procured and the appended results were regarded as satisfactory.

Description	Batches	Plate count at 37°C.	Presump- tive Coli	Faecal Coli	Cl. Welchii
Whelks ...	20 shellfish examined	96,000	60	Nil	Nil
Cockles ...	40 shellfish examined	5,400	18	Nil	Nil
Cockles ...	40 shellfish examined	18,000	30	Nil	Nil

MEAT INSPECTION IN SLAUGHTERHOUSES

The two licensed slaughterhouses requisitioned by the Ministry of Food continued to operate throughout the year and all animals slaughtered for human consumption in the Borough were dealt with there.

	Cattle exclud- ing Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs	Total
Number killed ...	5,316	673	2,323	10,615	2,418	21,345
Number Inspected ...	5,316	673	2,323	10,615	2,418	21,345
Percentage of number killed which were inspected ...	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
All diseases except Tuberculosis :						
Whole carcasses condemned	4	7	11	10	26	58
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	1,747	266	17	1,106	544	3,680
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuber- culosis ...	32.94%	40.56%	1.21%	10.51%	23.57%	17.51%
Tuberculosis only :						
Whole carcasses condemned	25	13	2	—	7	47
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	529	168	2	—	113	812
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis ...	10.42%	26.89%	0.17%	—	4.96%	4.02%

In February at one of the slaughterhouses two cow carcasses were found to be affected with Foot and Mouth disease. Slaughtering operations were

immediately suspended and the Ministry's Divisional Inspector notified. The diseased carcasses were condemned and disposed of by burying them in quicklime on the Corporation's airport tip. Disinfection of the slaughterhouse and the cattle market completed the discharge of the Local Authority's obligations under the Diseases of Animals Acts. Due to the enthusiasm and ready co-operation displayed by all concerned it was possible to resume slaughtering at this premises within two days of the disease having been discovered.

The investigations being carried out in conjunction with the Public Health Laboratory Service at the end of 1951 into the incidence in bovine livers of salmonella and brucella organisms was completed. Twenty specimens were submitted during the year for examination. All were negative.

TUBERCULOSIS IN CALVES

During the year the Veterinary Inspector of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries was notified of one calf examined in a slaughterhouse and found to be affected with Congenital Tuberculosis.

The Divisional Veterinary Officer reported that the dam could have been one of two cows. One of these had been slaughtered at a knackers yard prior to his investigation. A vaginal swab from the other dam revealed no evidence of tuberculosis on microscopic examination.

CYSTICERCUS BOVIS

The system of inspection to locate *Cysticercus Bovis* infestation in cattle was continued in all bovine carcasses during the year. Fifteen cases were diagnosed and the carcasses were dealt with in accordance with approved policy.

In addition, where possible, the inspectors in the districts of origin were notified in an attempt to assist in the location of infected pastures.

SLAUGHTER OF ANIMALS ACT, 1933

Number of Slaughtermen on Register at 31st December, 1951	...	35
Applications for Licences considered during 1952	... ..	26
Number of Slaughtermen on Register at 31st December, 1952	...	26

MERCHANDISE MARKS ORDERS

Four hundred and ninety-four visits were paid to food shops in the Borough to ascertain that the labelling provisions of the various Orders were being complied with. Eighty-one contraventions were found, all of which were complied with upon the vendors' attention being drawn to the omission. In general it was found that the various traders continued to co-operate readily in complying with the requirements of the Orders.

Following a Council Resolution copies of notices requesting the public to keep dogs out of food shops were delivered to all such shops in the Borough. Traders showed a commendable willingness to display these notices. Opportunity was taken to extend the usefulness of the visits being paid by supplying the shop-keepers with copies of the Council's Clean Food Bye-Laws, and also with pamphlets setting out their obligations under the various Merchandise Marks Orders.

INSPECTION OF MEAT AND OTHER FOODS

The amount of unsound food condemned and destroyed during the year comprised :

<i>No. of Condemnation Notes</i>	<i>Article</i>	<i>Weight in lbs.</i>
2,016	Beef	110,965
	Pork	10,578
	Mutton	3,688
	Meat other than from Slaughterhouses ...	1,347
	Meat—Canned	25,622
	Meat Pies	49
	Sausages	497
	Rabbits—Canned and Frozen	77
	Chickens	10
	Pastes—Meat and Fish	1,031
	Fish—Canned and Fresh	11,258
	Shellfish	168
	Fruit—Canned and Fresh, and Fruit Juices ...	88,602
	Fruit—Dried	95
	Preserves—Canned	2,977
	Vegetables—Canned and Fresh, and Soups ...	22,644
	Milk and Cream—Canned and Evaporated ...	424
	Cheese—Processed	34
	Lard	38
	Suet—Shredded... ..	7
	Gelatine	17
	Cereals	62
	Biscuits	349
	Cakes and Confectionery	80
	Cake and Pudding Mixtures and Flour ...	3,429
	Puddings—Canned	37
	Ice Cream and Ice Lollies	45
	Pickles and Sauces	47
	Mustard and Cress	60
	Miscellaneous	4
2,016	126 tons 17 cwts. 3 qrs. 13 lbs.	284,241

The above statement includes the weight of the entire carcasses and organs of 29 cattle, excluding cows, 20 cows, 13 calves, 10 sheep and lambs and 33 pigs.

In the course of inspection of food, 11 samples were submitted for bacteriological examination.

The examination of synthetic cream and other cake fillings involved the submission of 16 samples to the Public Health Laboratory.

In connection with the tracing of food poisoning incidents, 4 samples of food were also delivered to the laboratory for bacteriological examination.

Finally one sample of Yoghourt milk was also taken.

Appropriate action was taken as indicated by the various reports.

ANALYTICAL WORK CARRIED OUT BY THE PUBLIC ANALYST

Samples of foods and drugs taken by the staff of the department, together with deposits from the atmospheric pollution gauges and lead peroxide candles are sent to Mr. C. Harcourt Wordsworth, B.Sc. (Lond.), F.R.I.C., Public Analyst, who has submitted the following report for the year 1952.

“ During the year under review a total of 328 samples were examined under the Food and Drugs Act, 1938. Of these samples 125 were milk, and of the total analysed 19 were reported upon adversely as not being of the nature, substance or quality demanded.

“ Of the 125 samples of milk examined 16 were found to be adulterated either by the addition of water or the abstraction of fat. During the year a number of samples were examined which proved to have less than the legal amount of non-fatty solids and yet were shown by other tests, notably the Hortvet Freezing Point test, not to contain added water. Such milk must be regarded as of poor quality, as its food value is less than that of normal milk, and every effort should be made to bring about an improvement.

“ Some samples were submitted either as a result of a complaint or upon suspicion. Among these were two samples of ice lollies containing minute traces of copper, probably derived from a metal mould.

“ A sample of canned cooked boneless ham which gave a suspicious watery sound on shaking the sealed can, was found to be quite sterile and free from metallic contamination.

“ Samples of cooking fat were examined as the result of a complaint, and it was found that the fat was rancid and would impart an unpleasant flavour to food.

“ Whilst gross contamination of food is now very rare there are fresh problems arising, and more information is needed on the effects of consuming minute traces of the various chemicals widely used to-day as weed-killers, insecticides, antioxidants, stabilisers, wetting agents, and in various other ways.

“ The measurement of deposits from standard gauges and the estimation of sulphur pollution by lead peroxide ‘ candle ’ has been continued throughout the year. Monthly samples are obtained by the Public Health department and brought to this laboratory where the various constituents are found by analysis.

“ The standard deposit gauge collects the total solid matter settling or washed down by rain over a small accurately measured area. From the analytical results the rate and type of deposition over a large area can be calculated. The figure varies with the amount of rain, wind and other factors depending on the weather, but averages over a long time do indicate the trend of atmospheric pollution.

“ The lead peroxide instrument gives a measure of the effects of the corrosive sulphur compounds in the air. The figure obtained on analysis is an average measure of the amount of sulphuric anhydride absorbed by a standard sized sheet of prepared material in one day.

“ Further measurements of smoke and sulphur dioxide concentrations are carried out daily by the Council’s own staff, a précis of whose results is incorporated below.

“ The winter and summer averages of all figures clearly demonstrate the effect of domestic fires upon the pollution of the air of Luton, a notable increase occurring during the winter months.

“ It will be seen that the summer averages of 1952 for the standard deposit gauge and the lead peroxide instrument show a decrease in pollution in the Beech Hill area. If this trend is continued and further results follow a similar pattern there should be cause for satisfaction but further investigation is needed before it will be possible to demonstrate the success of the efforts being made to reduce smoke and its associated evils.”

SAMPLING OF FOOD AND DRUGS

During the year 328 samples were taken, 131 being formal and 197 informal samples.

<i>Formal</i>	<i>Informal</i>	<i>Nature of Sample</i>
—	4	Butter
—	10	Meat and meat products
1	22	Confectionery, sweets, etc.
—	12	Fish—canned, and fish and meat paste
—	18	Fruit—fresh and preserved
—	53	Groceries—miscellaneous
—	11	Jam, honey, marmalade, etc.
—	10	Lard, cooking fat and suet
—	4	Margarine
—	6	Milk and milk foods (canned)
120	5	Milk
—	11	Patent medicines and chemical substances
1	2	Sausages and sausage meat
—	6	Temperance drinks and non-alcoholic wines
9	5	Wines, spirits and beers
—	18	Ice-cream
<hr/> 131	<hr/> 197	
328		

Of the samples analysed 19 were reported to be not genuine, details of which, and the action taken in regard thereto, are as follows :

Sample No.	Formal	In-formal	Article	Adulteration or other Irregularity	Action taken
9315		1	Buttamints	Deficient in butter fat at least 29%	Repeat formal sample was found genuine. Sample submitted by wholesaler because of doubt as to nature of article. As a result of Analyst's report, whole consignment not sold for human consumption.
9331		1	Salad Cream	Fat content below minimum of 25% Incorrectly labelled.	
9356	1		Milk	Fat deficient 7%	Average fat content of total consignment did not fall below statutory minimum. Deficiency attributed to one cow giving large quantity of poor quality milk. Steps taken to adjust balance.
9382	1		Milk	Extraneous water 8.3%	
9389		1	Milk	Fat deficient 7.6%	Proceedings instituted under Section 3 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938, against producer, who was fined £1 and ordered to pay £2 2s. 0d. costs. Average fat content of total consignment did not fall below statutory minimum. Matter investigated at farm and producer advised on handling.
9421	1		Milk	Fat deficient 2%	
9422	1		Milk	Fat deficient 4%	Average fat content of total consignment did not fall below statutory minimum. Farmer interviewed and report sent to County Agricultural Officer with regard to certain abnormalities of whole of milk in consignment.
9426	1		Milk	Fat deficient 8%	
9429	1		Milk	Fat deficient 9%	Sample was from consignment contained in one churn only. Farmer visited and advised, and warning letter sent.
9548	1		Milk	Fat deficient 14%	
9549	1		Milk	Fat deficient 3.6%	Average fat content of total consignment, contained in two churns, only very slightly below statutory minimum. Milk of poor quality. Warning letter sent and farmer advised to contact Milk Production Officer.
9550	1		Milk	Fat deficient 15%	
9554	1		Milk	Fat deficient 22.3%	Average fat content of total consignment contained in three churns was 3.44%. Farm visited. On investigation there was no reason to suspect that the milk was not as obtained from cows.
9557	1		Milk	Fat deficient 5%	
9558	1		Milk	Fat deficient 8.6%	Samples from two consignments of milk from two farms owned by one farmer. Average fat content of total consignment in both cases did not fall below statutory minimum. Warning letter sent. Producer interviewed, who agreed to take steps to improve fat content of morning's milk.
9578	1		Milk	Fat deficient 5%	
9641	1		Milk	Fat deficient 17.3%	Sample from consignment contained in one churn only. Investigation indicated that the milk was as received from the cow. Warning letter sent.
9642	1		Milk	Extraneous water 7%	
				Fat deficient 10.6%	The samples could not be tested and results confirmed by Hortvet method owing to condition on arrival at Analyst's. Four further samples taken later, but Hortvet test did not confirm presence of added water, and they were regarded as abnormal. Farmer visited and advised, and matter taken up with County Agricultural Officer.
				Extraneous water 8%	
9670		1	Shredded Suet	Deficient in fat 4.9%	Informal sample only. Efforts made to obtain formal sample immediately Analyst's report received, but none was available.

SUMMARY OF CHEMICAL ANALYSES OF MILK SAMPLES

Period	No. of Samples Examined	AVERAGES	
		Fat %	Solids not Fat %
January	11	3.77	8.84
February	12	3.92	9.01
March	13	3.49	8.82
Quarter ended 31.3.52 ...	36	3.75	8.89
April	13	3.30	8.91
May	24	3.15	8.70
June	10	3.25	8.58
Quarter ended 30.6.52 ...	47	3.19	8.71
July	4	3.54	8.62
August	7	3.01	8.41
September	7	3.46	8.66
Quarter ended 30.9.52 ...	18	3.24	8.52
October	5	3.98	8.83
November	15	3.97	8.55
December	4	3.70	8.77
Quarter ended 31.12.52 ...	24	3.97	8.61
Year ended 31.12.52 ...	125	3.48	8.71

ATMOSPHERIC POLLUTION—SUMMARY OF OBSERVATIONS

DEPOSITED MATTER
EXPRESSED AS
TONS PER SQUARE MILE
PER MONTH

1950-1951

	Town Hall	Beech Hill
Summer Average April-Sept., 1950 ...	14.08	24.07
Winter Average Oct., 1950-Mar., 1951 ...	21.34	25.73
Year's Average ...	17.71	24.90

SULPHUR COMPOUNDS BY LEAD
PEROXIDE METHOD EXPRESSED AS
MILLIGRAMS SO₃/DAY/1,000 CM²
LEAD PEROXIDE

1950-1951

	Town Hall	Beech Hill	Luton High School	Con- naught Road
Summer Average April-Sept., '50	7.4	15.8	—	—
Winter Average Oct. '50-Mar., '51	22.6	24.6	—	—
Year's Average	15.0	20.2	—	—

SUSPENDED MATTER AND SULPHUR
DIOXIDE BY VOLUMETRIC METHOD
Suspended Matter expressed as milligrams
per 100 cubic metres
Sulphur Dioxide expressed as parts
per million

1950-1951

	Suspended Matter	Sulphur Dioxide
Summer Average April-Sept., 1950 ...	5.5	2.0
Winter Average Oct., 1950-Mar., 1951 ...	16.8	1.3
Year's Average ...	11.2	1.6

1951-1952

	Town Hall	Beech Hill
Summer Average April-Sept., 1951 ...	15.98	21.27
Winter Average Oct., 1951-Mar., 1952 ...	18.95	20.84
Year's Average ...	17.47	21.06

1951-1952

	Town Hall	Beech Hill	Luton High School	Con- naught Road
Summer Average April-Sept., '51	9.4	13.8	5.4	26.1
Winter Average Oct. '51-Mar., '52	18.9	20.3	12.8	36.8
Year's Average	14.2	17.1	9.1	31.5

1951-1952

	Suspended Matter	Sulphur Dioxide
Summer Average April-Sept., 1951 ...	6.0	1.1
Winter Average Oct., 1951-Mar., 1952 ...	12.9	6.4
Year's Average ...	9.5	3.8

Deposited Matter (tons per sq. mile per month)

Jan.-Dec., 1952

				Town Hall	Beech Hill	Luton High School
January	...	...	...	21.27	21.33	7.21
February	...	...	...	15.10	15.24	9.05
March	...	...	...	20.33	25.88	14.16
April	...	...	...	17.21	16.15	15.08
May	...	...	...	10.51	14.51	7.66
June	...	...	...	11.76	16.10	9.54
July	...	...	...	5.05	9.89	6.02
August	...	...	...	15.85	25.12	—
September	...	...	...	14.25	18.33	11.82
October	...	...	...	14.39	17.59	14.27
November	...	...	...	33.05	15.95	10.80
December	...	...	...	22.23	19.25	12.71

Sulphur Compounds by Lead Peroxide Method
(milligrams SO₃/day/1,000 cm².)

Jan.-Dec., 1952

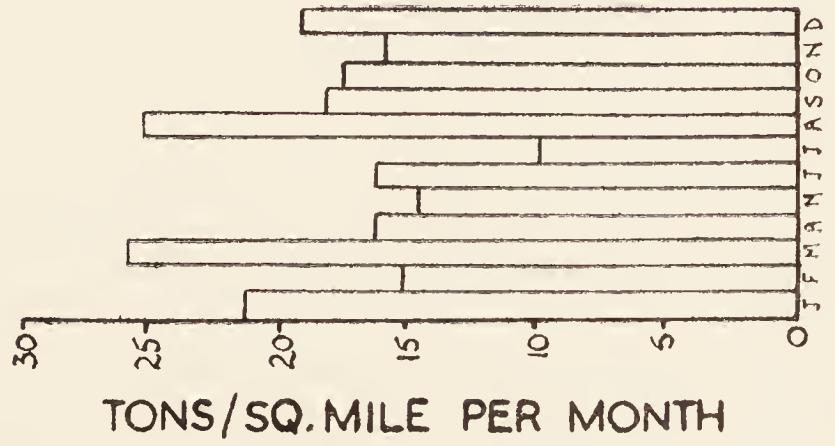
				Town Hall	Beech Hill	Luton High School	Connaught Road
January	...	...	...	29.3	25.6	15.0	28.5
February	...	...	...	25.4	18.5	15.7	14.3
March	...	...	...	17.7	14.8	11.2	29.6
April	...	...	...	14.6	14.0	10.5	30.2
May	...	...	...	8.9	8.6	5.5	25.7
June	...	...	...	8.4	9.7	5.8	26.6
July	...	...	...	5.2	3.2	5.6	12.2
August	...	...	...	6.2	4.4	—	13.5
September	...	...	...	13.4	9.1	7.7	9.9
October	...	...	...	21.8	12.8	13.6	22.2
November	...	...	...	30.9	13.6	12.3	17.7
December	...	...	...	29.4	21.3	22.4	43.8

Summer Averages 1952

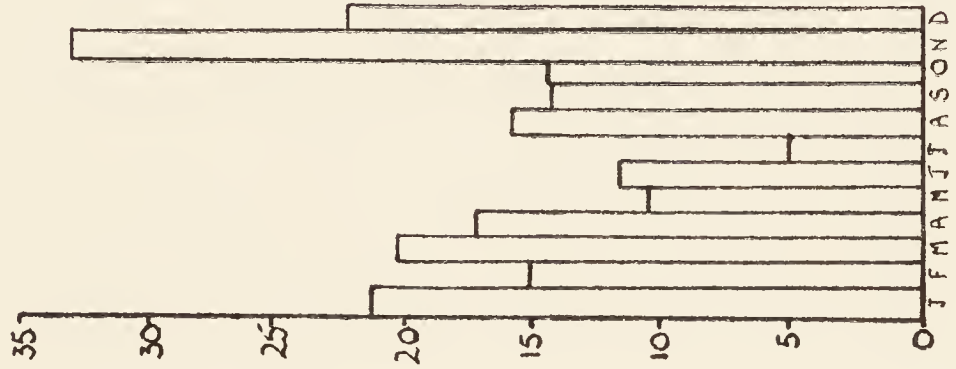
				Town Hall	Beech Hill	Luton High School	Connaught Road
Deposited Matter (tons/sq. mile/month)	...	...	...	12.44	16.68	10.02	—
Milligrams SO ₃ /day/1,000 cm ².	...	...	...	9.5	8.2	7.0	19.7

MONTHLY DEPOSIT IN TONS PER SQUARE MILE, 1952.

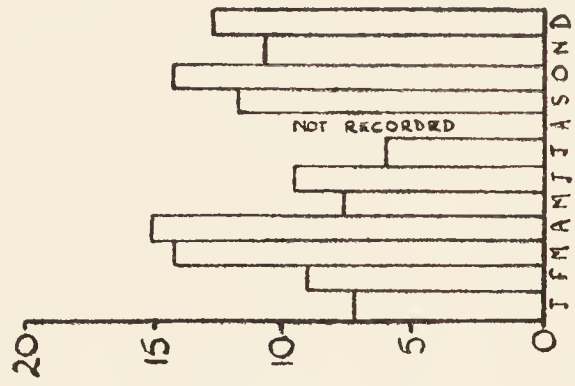
BEECH HILL



TOWN HALL



HIGH SCHOOL



SULPHUR DIOXIDE BY THE LEAD PEROXIDE METHOD, 1952.

